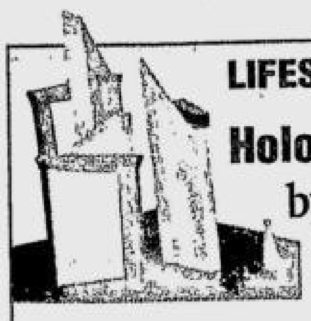


**LIFESTYLE** / C1

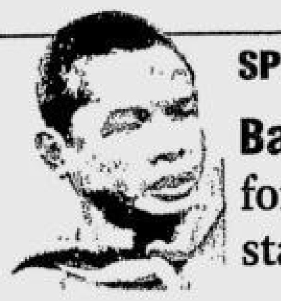
**Holocaust sculpture**
by Filipino artist
to rise in Israel

**BUSINESS** / B1

**San Miguel plans**
investments in
power, other utilities

**SPORTS** / A31

**Mayweather beats**
De La Hoya on points,
improves to 38-0



**SPORTS** / A29

**Bautista too good**
for Medina,
stays unbeaten

### Doctors advise Mike A: See no evil, hear no evil

COOL KA LANG!

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE DOCTOR'S ADVICE to Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo was simple and clear: See no evil, hear no evil.

In other words, the President's controversial

DOCTORS/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Monday, May 7, 2007 ★★ 9 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 148 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

### I don't want to die here, RP hostage says

IN AN EMOTIONAL MESSAGE AIRED YESTERDAY, a Filipino kidnapped with 10 others in Nigeria said they were being held in the jungle, beaten up and starved.

"We want to see our families ... I don't want to die here," the unidentified hostage said in a recorded telephone appeal for help broadcast over radio dzBB in the Philippines.

I DON'T WANT/ A23

# Palace retreats on Binay

## Suspension of Makati mayor deferred

By DJ Yap and Fe Zamora

IN A TURNAROUND, THE Arroyo administration yesterday deferred the suspension of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and lifted the freeze order on all but one of the banks holding the funds of the city.

The twin moves on the crucial last week of the election campaign came after the media reported that Binay had asked his supporters to thank President Macapagal-Arroyo for ensuring his reelection by harassing him.

Ms Arroyo's allies had also assailed the timing of the suspension and the freezing of Makati's assets.

"It's a case of too little, too late," Binay said of the latest moves taken by Malacañang.

"It will not change the fact that this regime has again misused the powers of government for political ends at the expense of public welfare," he said in a statement.

Binay, who is facing administration Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid in the mayoral race, was served a suspension order late Friday night in connection with a plunder case filed by a political rival with the Office of the Ombudsman.

Two days before, the Bureau of Internal Revenue froze all the bank accounts of the city government and the personal accounts of Binay and Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado in what the BIR said was an effort to recover P1.1 billion in alleged unpaid taxes.

The freeze order threatened to cripple operations at City Hall.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said the preventive suspension of Binay would be deferred "for the duration of the election period."

PALACE/ A23

PHOTOS BY ROMEO GACAD/AFP

**MASBATE** congressional candidate Maloli Espinosa prays before the tombs of her slain brother, Masbate City Mayor Moises Espinosa Jr., and father, Rep. Moises Espinosa Sr.

**THE CANDIDATE** checks her .357 Magnum revolver and .45-cal. pistol.

### MASBATE'S BLOODY POLITICS

## Woman takes up cudgels for clan

MASBATE CITY—WHEN MALOLI ESPINOSA told her boss she was leaving her well-paid corporate job at a television network to run for Congress, he asked her: "Why expose your daughters to this bloody heritage?"

The 47-year-old mother of two adult daughters knew exactly what he was talking about.

For decades, the Espinosa clan has dominated Masbate politics.

But like so many provinces in the Philippines where political change tends to come through the barrel of a gun rather than the ballot box, the Espinosas have seen their fair share of death.

Political opponents gunned down Maloli's father, Rep. Moises Espinosa, at the Masbate airport in 1989, seconds after he had stepped off a flight from Manila. Six years later, her uncle, Rep. Tito Espinosa, was murdered near the Batasang Pambansa complex in Quezon City.

And in 2001, her brother, Moises Espinosa Jr., was cut down in a hail of bullets while attending a town fiesta. He had been mayor of Masbate City for just 40 days.

All were victims of the fierce political rivalries that dominate politics in a country where votes are bought, political patronage is the norm and assassins are hired for a few thousand pesos.

So why, against this bloody background, did she give up her job as vice president for government and corporate affairs and public relations at ABS-CBN, the biggest television network in the country, to enter the murky world of Philippine politics?

"Many of my friends find it difficult to understand, but there is something deep inside me that simply wants to serve the people of Masbate," Maloli told Agence France Presse in an interview.

"As a little girl growing up, I wanted to be just like my father. But when any question came up about me entering politics, he would change the subject. He didn't want me in politics," she said in the spacious living room of the family home just a few kilometers outside of Masbate City.

The two-story gray brick-and-wood house that her father built sits in the middle of a three-hectare walled compound. The metal grates that cover the windows and patio areas are a re-

WOMAN/ A22

## 'Great Debate' of Election 2007: A false referendum

By Amando Doronila

**ANALYSIS**

IN SEVEN DAYS, FILIPINOS WILL GO TO the polls that have been inaccurately billed as a "referendum" on the performance of President Macapagal-Arroyo over the past six years.

That perspective is false and self-deceptive.

The campaign over the past three months has developed into one of the greatest nonissue elections since the republic's creation in 1946.

Election 2007 has become a "Great Yawn." It is taking place in the vacuum created by the absence of a clash over policy alternatives. Its hallmark is an alarmingly high level of voter apathy. There is little evidence that voters are exercised over great issues that drive the clamor for change and fuel great debates over policy and ideas.

And yet, opinion surveys show a broad undercurrent of dissatisfaction with the Arroyo administration's performance and manifest abuse of power. The opposition has failed to tap this undertow of grievances.

There is little evidence that a powerful public outrage has built up steam over the extrajudicial killings, the crippling harassment of opposition and Leftist opponents, and the abuse of power, at least sufficient enough to reverse the Arroyo administration's control of Congress.

This "nonissue Great Debate" works to the advantage of the administration.

GREAT DEBATE/ A22

## *Loren finds comfort in her 'other' mother*

By Cynthia D. Balana

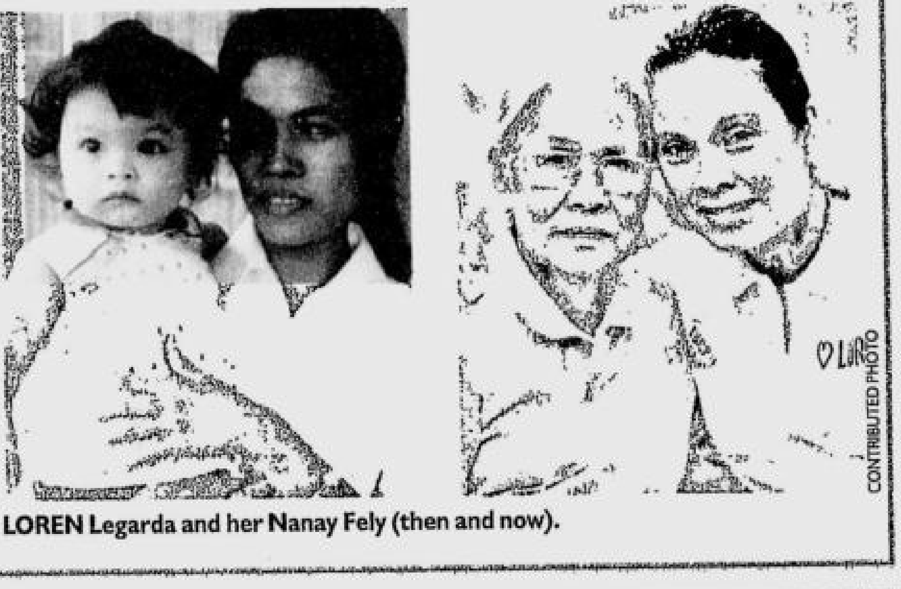
HERS IS THE PASSION AND DEDICATION only a birth mother can give to a child.

To Felicidad Bagayas, or Nanay Fely, it does not matter that Loren Legarda, a senatorial candidate of the Genuine Opposition in the May 14 elections, is not her real daughter. She is after all, Legarda's "other mother," the lone repository of her childhood "secrets."

For 50 years, Nanay Fely—still single at 74—has enjoyed celebrating Mother's Day with the Legarda clan.

To Nanay Fely, Mother's Day—to be observed around the world on May 13—is not just for biological mothers; it is for anyone who has mothered someone or carried a child, be they biological or foster mothers, or caregivers.

LOREN/ A22



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**LOREN** Legarda and her Nanay Fely (then and now).

## Granddaughter remembers Lolo Doroy

By Ria Ferro
*Contributor*

MORE THAN HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO journalism, his work at Rizal Park, the philanthropy and accolades, I remember my Lolo Doroy, the late newspaperman Teodoro F. Valencia, as a loyal ally, devoted friend, constant benefactor and fan for the first 20 years of my life.

When we buried him 20 years ago, on May 7, 1987, the day that would have been his 74th birthday, I was a young woman suddenly bereft of her best and most beloved *lolo*. It was, up till then, my greatest and most inconsolable grief.

Though I lived with my maternal grandparents, I felt I did not know my Lolo Doroy as well as I should have when he died on May 4, 1987. I knew then that I needed to write his story to discover who he was and what he stood for.

I realize those born after the mid-1980s may never have heard of Ka Doroy—to various pundits a legend, an institution, and still unsurpassed "Dean

GRANDDAUGHTER/ A23

**EZ2** ㉘ ㉖ | Mid-Day **SUERTRES** ⑤ ⓪ ③ | Evening ⑤ ⑤ ⑨

(All in exact order)

**SUPERLOTTO 6/49**

③ ⑬ ⑯ ㉒ ㊹ ㊻

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# Second FRONTPAGE

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## WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Extreme Northern Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Metro Manila | Partly Cloudy | Iloilo/Bacolod | Partly Cloudy |
| Baguio | Partly Cloudy | Roxas | Partly Cloudy |
| Tuguegarao | Partly Cloudy | Cebu | Partly Cloudy |
| Laoag | Partly Cloudy | Tacloban | Partly Cloudy |
| Clark Zone | Partly Cloudy | Gen. Santos | Partly Cloudy |
| Tagaytay | Partly Cloudy | Zamboanga | Partly Cloudy |
| Legazpi | Partly Cloudy | Cagayan de Oro | Partly Cloudy |
| Calapan | Partly Cloudy | Davao | Partly Cloudy |

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, INQUIRER RESEARCH/05/06/07 SOURCE PAGASA

# Party-list qualifications questioned

**By Nikko Dizon**

CAN A LAWYER FOR THE LAKAS PARTY DOUBLE as a party-list nominee? Can some nominees make a party-list group a family affair?

These were some of the questions raised yesterday by a watchdog and some militant party-list organizations following the disclosure of the identities of party-list nominees by the Commission on Elections as ordered by the Supreme Court.

Ameurfino Cinco, chair of Bantay RA 7941, told the INQUIRER that it was not enough that the people knew who the party-list nominees were.

What was more important was for the high court to clarify, once and for all, the qualifications for one to become a party-list nominee.

"The SC just applied a Band-Aid to a big, gaping wound," said Cinco, who blew the whistle on the party-list for sale scam allegedly perpetrated by people close to Malacañang and the Comelec.

Lakas lawyer and Sigaw ng Bayan convenor Raul Lambino is the second nominee of the Barangay Association for National Advancement and Transparency (Banat).

Last week, he went to the Comelec office to file an explanation as to why insurance cards were distributed by Lakas leader and reelectionist Rep. Jose de Venecia in Pangasinan.

"The case of Attorney Lambino, as well as that of Dr. Arsenio Abalos, is a glaring example," Cinco said.

Abalos, the older brother of Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr., is the second nominee of Biyaheng Pinoy, a party-list organization of tricycle drivers.

"We must also raise the question: Are these people qualified to be nominees? What are the [requirements to] qualify? If they are not qualified, then they must be disqualified. The Supreme Court did not clarify this," Cinco said.

JV Bautista of the militant party-list group Sanlakas, claimed that officers of political parties like Lambino, were not qualified to be party-list nominees.

In a phone interview, Lambino defended his nomination, saying there was a "distinction between my being a lawyer for Lakas and being a member of a multisectoral organization. These kinds of propaganda from opposition groups are baseless and unfounded."

Sanlakas and Partido ng Manggagawa (PM) also pointed out that at least two families had turned the party-list organization into a family affair.

The groups cited the Alliance of Volunteer Educators (AVE), whose first nominee is incumbent Rep. Eulogio Magsaysay, while its third nominee is his mother, Adelaide.

According to PM's Gerry Rivera, Magsaysay's wife was supposed to be the second nominee but it was given to another person.

Sanlakas and PM also noted that four of the five nominees of Ang Laban ng Indiginong Filipino, or ALIF, were surnamed Tomawis, led by incumbent Rep. Acmad Maruhom Tomawis.

"The party-list nominees list published by the INQUIRER was a veritable who's who of sons, daughters and scions of political families," said Sanlakas' third nominee and national president, Wilson Fortaleza, in a statement.

# No order to vote for TU—Esperon

**By Christine O. Avendaño**

AMID SIMILAR REPORTS FROM other provinces, Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. yesterday said there was no order or instruction from the military top brass for AFP officers and enlisted men to vote for administration candidates and progovernment party-list groups in the absentee voting for military personnel and on election day itself.

Soldiers in some parts of Mindanao had claimed they were ordered by their superiors to vote for administration candidates and party-list groups.

Esperon told ANC news that the military was checking the allegations because, "it's the policy of the AFP to remain nonpartisan."

But yesterday, similar claims were made by soldiers stationed in Samar and Tarlac.

Esperon said he had reminded the military to stay away from politics and had banned candidates from campaigning in military camps.

"There is even now an allegation that I sent out a radio message directing all soldiers to vote 12-0 (in favor of Team Unity) and for a particular party-list group," Esperon said in the interview over ANC.

Former Navy officer Antonio Trillanes IV had claimed that Esperon sent a radio message to all AFP units to ensure a 12-0 Team Unity win on May 14.

Esperon said that the company commander in Mati, Davao Oriental, where some soldiers had claimed they were ordered to vote only for TU bets had denied the allegation.

To assuage fears that the military was checking the votes cast by soldiers, Esperon stressed that the mechanics for local absentee voting was "very strict."

"The ballots that are filled out by the voters are in sealed envelopes and they have to reseal it after voting and this is sent to higher headquarters that also seals it in a bigger envelope and then this is sent to the Comelec," Esperon said.

Yesterday, Genuine Opposition candidate Sen. Panfilo Lacson said he received a text from a soldier assigned to the Army's 8th Infantry Division in Catbalogan, Samar, confirming an order from Army chief Lt. Gen. Romeo Tolentino to vote straight for Team Unity's 12 senatorial candidates.

The Black & White Movement also received a text about soldiers being forced to vote for the TU's bets in Tarlac, also supposedly under Tolentino's instruction.

"It's a very clear violation not only of the Omnibus Election Code, but of the Constitution. You can't force yourself on the soldiers; that's their right of suffrage," Lacson said in a phone interview.

The "far-reaching implication" of this, he added, was that the military top brass might use the soldiers "to force the victory" of the administration candidates while carrying out their election duties on May 14.

Lacson said he also received reports that Esperon himself issued the instruction to the soldiers taking part in the absentee voting around the country.

"The reports are widespread," he said.

Lacson said the soldier's text was forwarded to him by the latter's own brother, who was the senator's supporter.

The text read: "*Manong, pina*-absentee voting *kmi d2 sa* 8th ID *sa* catbalogan samar. *Pumunta si gen tolentino at kinausap si gen cunanan.* Instruction *ni gen tolentino kay gen cunanan na iboto nmin* straight *ang* team unity. *Bumuto kami walang* comelec representative. *Ano ba ito, manong?*"

"(Brother, we were asked to vote during an absentee voting here at the 8th ID in Catbalogan, Samar. Gen. Tolentino came and talked to Gen. Cunanan. Gen. Tolentino's instruction to Gen. Cunanan was for us to vote straight for Team Unity. We cast our votes without a Comelec representative. What's this, brother?)" Maj. Gen. Armando Cunanan is the commander of the 8th ID.

# *Tape of PCSO board discussing aid for gov't bets in '01 surfaces*

**By Norman Bordadora**

THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES Office was allegedly asked to fund the senatorial campaign of the administration coalition in 2001.

Its board, then chaired by Honey Girl Singson-de Leon, supposedly discussed how the PCSO could justify spending for the coalition's radio ads and plugs.

De Leon's discussion with then PCSO general manager Virgilio Angelo on the agency's alleged spending for the People Power Coalition's media exposure was contained in a voice recording of a PCSO board meeting in 2001, a copy of which was given to the INQUIRER yesterday.

Opposition campaigner Linggoy Alcuaz, then a member of the PCSO board, handed over the recording.

Asked why he chose to come out with the story and the tape at this time, Alcuaz said it was only now that someone was ready to corroborate his story.

"Another witness on the government spending for its candidates is about to come out," Alcuaz said.

He said those present at the meeting were De Leon, Angelo, himself and board members Margie Juico, Art Borjal, Rusty de Quiros and PCSO board secretary, lawyer Cirilo Avila.

In the tape, a male voice, which, according to Alcuaz, was Angelo's, said: "Before we adjourn, may I just convey the request of the *partido* (party) that we support the TV and radio advertisement for.... They are asking for our support."

Alcuaz said there was no other party being referred to at that time but the Arroyo administration's People Power Coalition and its 13-person senatorial slate.

"[There's] also a 30-second bonus, a Sunday 30-second bonus, plus intermittent announcement of lotto results and mentioning of PCSO activities," the male voice continued.

This was followed by a gap in the recording. Apparently, the tape recorder had been turned off, but after less than a minute, the recording continued.

Alcuaz said that De Leon asked that the recorder be turned off when a male voice, supposedly Angelo's, raised the matter of the *partido* asking for PCSO support.

A female voice, allegedly De Leon's, said: "And then there's an unwritten agreement that they will promote *yung mga kwan, yung mga kandidato, mga ganoon* (promote our candidates and similar announcements)."

A male voice replied: "But that's not in the agreement."

A female voice asked: "*Di*, unwritten agreement *nga* (So, it's an unwritten agreement). So how will we able to monitor the...."

As the supposed exchange between De Leon and Angelo was going on, another male voice interrupted: "They will be interviewed... rallies...."

Alcuaz, however, could not remember whose voice it was.

The monitoring could be done through the PCSO's branches in the provinces, said the voice, allegedly Angelo's, adding: "So our people can monitor if they are really playing our...."

The female voice allegedly said: "Ver, *sabihan natin sila na*, if ever they will, they do... they come up with a media plan to support our candidates, but *para di naman tayo ano, wag, wag masyado i-ano dun sa* PCSO *ano natin* (Ver, tell them that if ever they will, they do... they come up with a media plan to support our candidates but don't relate it too much to our PCSO activities)."

The male voice, which Alcuaz could not identify, chimed in: "*Tingin ko diyan, parang* scheme *lang ito para ma-justify 'yung* advertisement *nung* PCSO *dun sa* 13-0 campaign (I think that is just a scheme to justify the PCSO's advertisement in the 13-0 campaign)."

At this point, a female voice, allegedly De Leon's, wondered if the recorder was still running. She had earlier asked that the recorder be turned off when someone brought up the matter of the *partido* asking for PCSO support.

"*Sabi ko* off the record *eh* (I earlier said these discussion would be off the record)," the voice, allegedly De Leon's, said.

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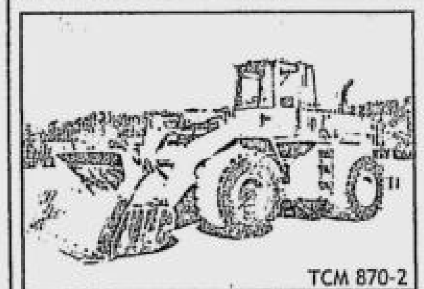

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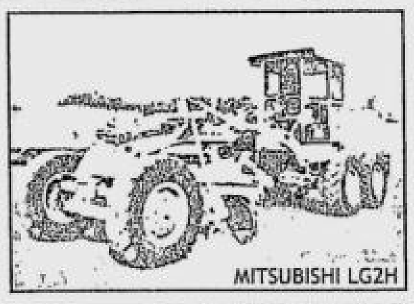

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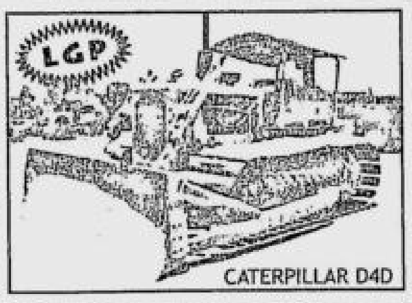

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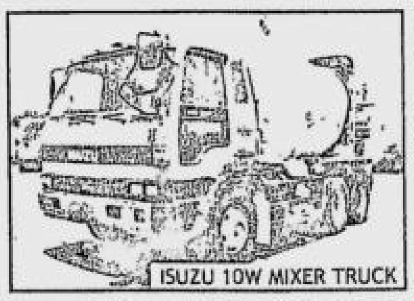

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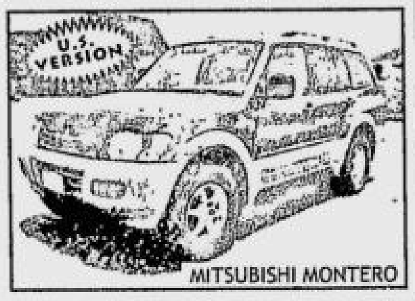

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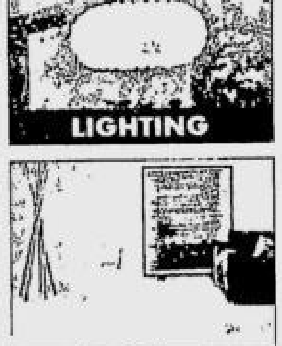

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# Cops seek more help from AFP

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE has asked the Commission on Elections to allow more units of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to help it provide security to teachers who will be performing election duties in high-risk areas in the country.

PNP, AFP and Comelec officials met on Friday in Camp Crame in Quezon City for a "coordinating conference" on the matter of the May 14 polls.

At the conference, police officials asked the Comelec to allow the military to add to the 54 units the AFP had recommended for deputization on Election Day, Chief Supt. Louie Palmera, deputy chief of the PNP Directorate for Operations, said in an interview over dzBB radio.

"There are high-risk polling centers, mostly in remote areas and in the mountains, that require security for the board of election inspectors," Palmera said in a phone interview with the INQUIRER.

The 54 AFP units that will help the police are to be sent to areas in Luzon and Mindanao where there are armed threats such as the communist New People's Army, he said.

Military support was also needed because many of the areas were inaccessible and all the logistical support would help, Palmera said.

For now, he said, the PNP could only provide one to two cops per election precinct, noting that the country has 42,000 polling centers.

But Palmera said the AFP would only be providing area or route security.

"They will secure the police who will in turn secure the teachers," he said. *Christine O. Avendaño*

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**What's this?** A non-surgical machine that works like digital retouching of photos in a computer.
**It does what?** Erases flaws you thought were impossible to "retouch" such as deep acne or surgical scars, discoloration (even melasma!), crow's feet, fine lines and other seemingly permanent marks.
**How does it work?** Quite like the perfectionist. Amazingly precise, it treats only small areas of the skin at a time, fraction by fraction, to avoid affecting any surrounding tissue.
**Any downtime?** Just a few days of post-treatment skin bronzing.
**Why should I try it?** To literally renew your skin with a "new face"!

ReFirme

**What's this?** The machine that will give truth to the term "non-surgical facelift".
**It does what?** Tightens loose, sagging skin, rejuvenates the face and neck and even refines enlarged pores and uneven skin.
**How does it work?** A quick, 45-minute treatment that does NOT involve needles, stitches, scars or sedation. Instead, a high-technology laser is used to safely and painlessly do the dirty work.
**Any downtime?** None. In fact, you can go straight to the next plan on your schedule.
**Why should I try it?** It's a 45-minute painless facelift with no downtime. Need we say more?

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**How does it work?** The power of a collagen mask plus a highly effective, but skin-friendly whitening agent are combined in this dual-purpose facial.
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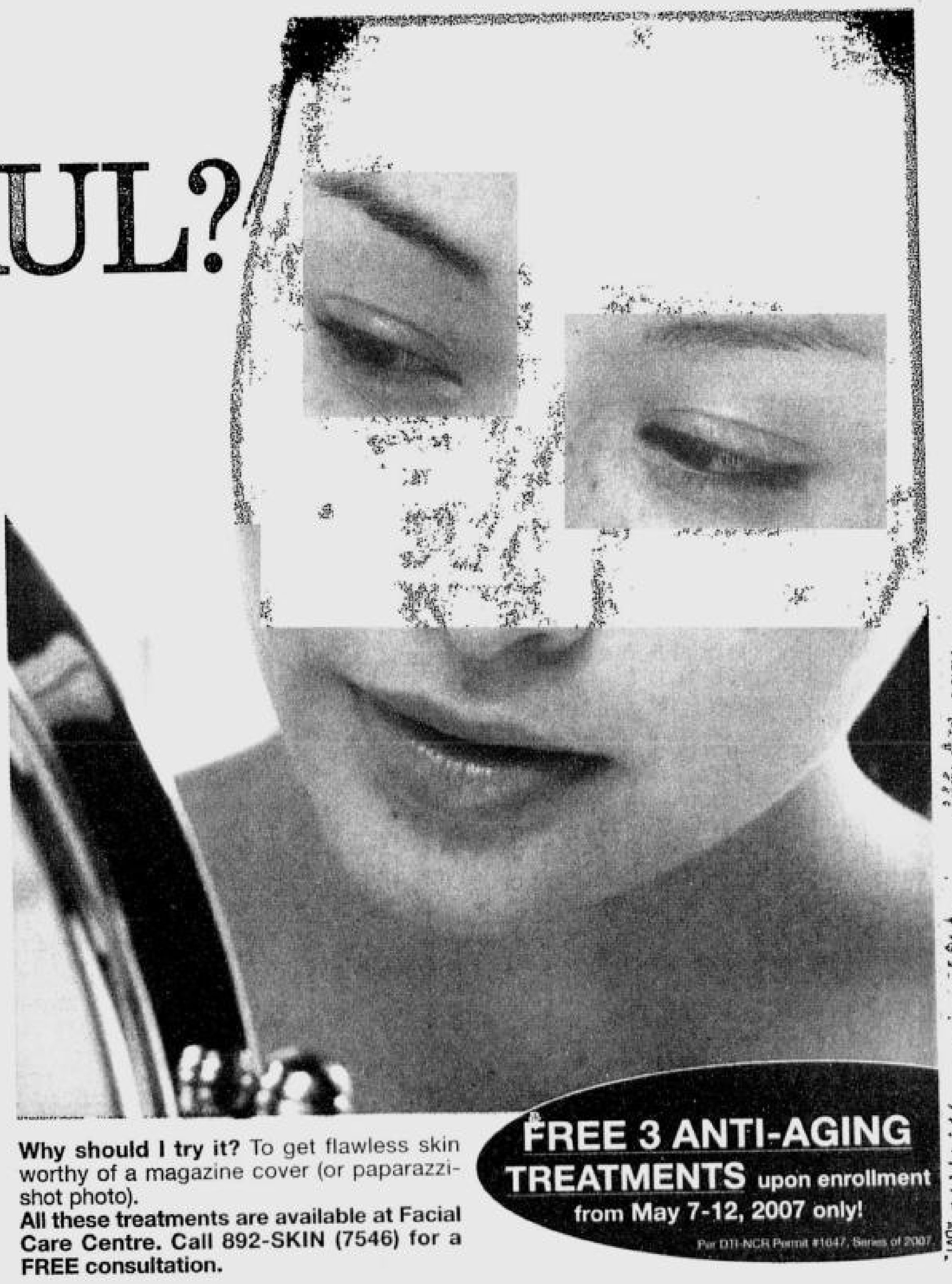

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# Ouster cases make Cayetano see need for electoral reform

By Nikko Dizon

WITH SEVERAL DISQUALIFICATION cases senatorial aspirant Alan Peter Cayetano facing in this election, the Genuine Opposition candidate realizes the need for reforms in the country's election laws.

"I admit we [in Congress] should have done more to amend the electoral laws. The problem is, when you don't experience it, it doesn't become urgent," Cayetano told reporters in a media briefing Friday.

He said that ideas for electoral reform laws would have to come from legislators, not just from consultants, because "half of this is emotion or passion."

He said that among the amendments he would like to propose is the separation of the administrative work of the Commission on Elections from its quasi-judicial functions.

"In a sense, they're (commissioners) both implementors, prosecutors, judges and policy makers because they make their own rules. So it negates certain checks and balances. I think there's a way to reformat that so that there'll be more transparency," he said.

Cayetano described himself as an "underdog" since he began his political career as a councilor in Taguig-Pateros in 1992.

Someone questioned his citizenship (Cayetano's mother is an American) and the case reached the regional trial court where he won.

He won as vice mayor in 1995 but because of an electoral protest, he was only proclaimed when he was already a congressman.

Now seeking a Senate seat, Cayetano faces a couple of disqualification suits. One has been dismissed by a Comelec division. He said a hearing has been scheduled this week for another disqualification case against him.

But the greatest obstacle remains the candidacy of a namesake, Joselito Pepito "Peter" Cayetano, who has been declared a nuisance candidate by the Comelec but whose motion for reconsideration has yet to be resolved by the poll body.

Cayetano said that even if the Comelec would come out with a final decision this week, it might be too late to inform the board of election inspectors. If that happens, a vote entered as "Cayetano" or "Peter Cayetano" would be considered a stray vote.

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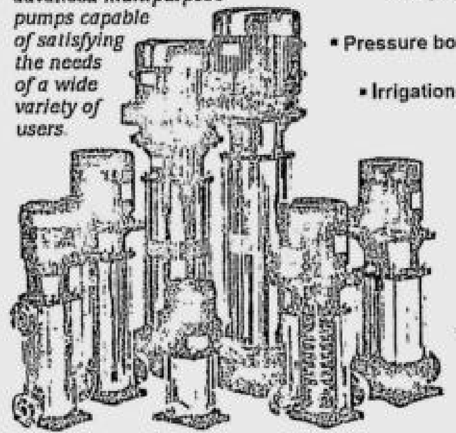

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# Watchdog says Pichay, Villar have overspent for campaign ads

By Michael Lim Ubac and Nikko Dizon

AN ELECTION WATCHDOG GROUP YESTERday charged administration senatorial candidate Prospero Pichay and reelectionist Manuel Villar with spending more than the campaign expenditure ceiling allowed by law.

Pichay, a representative from Surigao del Norte, immediately denied the charge while Team Unity (TU) spokesperson Ben Evardone challenged the poll watchdog to explain how it arrived at its computations.

The group Pera't Pulitika, composed of four organizations of young lawyers and electoral reform activists, claimed Pichay (TU) had already spent P151.7 million, while Villar of the Genuine Opposition (GO) had spent P138.2 million.

Under the law, a senatorial candidate may spend, from his or her own campaign funds, P3 for each of the 45 million voters, or about P135 million.

## 'Got the wrong figure'

In a press conference in Manila, Vincent Lazatin, Pera't Pulitika co-convenor, said the overspending observation was based on the group's campaign expense monitoring for print and broadcast media from Feb. 18 to May 1.

Their monitor report also indicated TU candidates had spent P919.1 million, nearly twice the estimated P518.8 million spent by GO.

Reached by the INQUIRER for comment, Pichay said the group "got the wrong figure."

Explained Pichay: "First, (their computation was) not based on discounted rates. Second, some of the TV ads were actually paid for by the party and, therefore, were not counted against me.

"Third, if I had that much money, I will not spend so much just to be disqualified," he said.

Asked where he got the funds, Pichay said: "Well, I'm happy that a lot of my friends believe in my principles and advocacies, and a lot of people believe that I'm going to win, that's why they're betting on me."

Evardone said that if Pera't Pulitika based its study on the rate cards of broadcast stations alone, "then it can be prematurely said" that TU overspent already. But he quickly pointed to the discounts given for cash payments.

"They can give us as high as 50 percent per placement of TV-radio ads, sometimes 20 percent," said Evardone.

Evardone also contested the notion that TU bets had a bigger campaign kitty, particularly for TV ads.

"They (GO bets) probably spent even twice as much," he said, citing the boxing match between Oscar de la Hoya and Floyd Mayweather on Sunday in which the TV ads of three GO candidates were aired during the first two rounds of the televised fight where "not a TU ad was seen."

## Other big ad spenders

Next to Villar, reelectionist Sen. Joker Arroyo of Team Unity has spent P133.4 million for his political ads, according to the watchdog.

Aside from Villar and Arroyo, the big ad spenders among the front-runners are TU's Edgardo Angara (P97.9 million) and Vicente "Tito" Sotto (P83.4 million) and GO bets Loren Legarda (P99.1 million) and Panfilo "Ping" Lacson (P63.6 million).

The others are GO's Francis "Chiz" Escudero (P49.8 million); Alan Peter Cayetano (P21.2 million); Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III (P44.4 million) and Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III (P32.5 million); and independent candidates Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan (P54.3 million) and Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan (P7.2 million).

Aside from Pichay, those who have spent large amounts on political ads are TU bets Luis "Chavit" Singson and Michael Defensor.

Lazatin said one could not help but wonder how the candidates would be able to recoup their multimillion-peso campaign expenditures—even if part of these were supposedly donated—with a senator's salary of only P35,000 a month.

Pera't Pulitika was organized in December last year to focus on the issue of political campaign finance and to submit policy suggestions to the Commission on Elections. Its working group is comprised of the Transparency and Accountability Network (TAN), the Consortium on Electoral Reform (CER), the Lawyers League for Liberty (Libertas) and the Access to Information Network (ATIN).

# Guingona wife junks GO bets, backs TU slate

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Nico Alconaba
*Inquirer Mindanao*

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—THE ADMINISTRAtion's Team Unity (TU) is making hay of reports of junking in opposition ranks. Now comes junking by Genuine Opposition (GO) candidates in the local level—and by the wife of a ranking GO official at that.

Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno, who was here to join TU candidates in the last leg of its Mindanao Caravan, made political capital of reports that opposition leader Teofisto Guingona's wife, Ruth, had abandoned the opposition ship and was now supporting the TU senatorial ticket.

He said Mayor Ruthie, as the incumbent mayor of Gingoog City is called, even organized a TU rally in her city two weeks ago and was proclaimed by TU candidate Edgardo Angara as the TU mayoral bet in the city.

Ruthie Guingona, a member of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) headed by Angara, later confirmed in an interview with the INQUIRER that she was indeed supporting Team Unity.

But she stressed that she did not transfer to the administration camp, "it's only a coalition."

"I am an LDP and Angara is an LDP, that's why it happened," she said in a phone interview.

When asked what her husband, the former Vice President and a GO leader had to say about it, the mayor said: "OK *lang sa kanya* (It's okay with him)."

She said both she and TU would gain from the move. "I also need the support," she added.

This development has increased Moreno's optimism that a majority of the administration party's senatorial candidates would win in his province.

"We can probably get 8-4 or 7-5 in favor of TU," he said in Filipino.

Even his opponent in the gubernatorial race, Kampi Rep. Augusto Baculio Jr., was part of the administration coalition.

In Zamboanga City, former opposition candidate Celso Lobregat is now with the administration and is pushing for a 12-0 victory for TU. Lobregat is also an LDP member.

A member of a powerful political clan here, Lobregat said President Macapagal-Arroyo had lost heavily in Zamboanga City, which has 360,000 registered voters, in 2004. But he predicted that her candidates would win this time.

The entire Mindanao region has about 10 million voters.

Angara, stumping in Mindanao, said that administration candidates had the edge in the local elections and he believed this would spell the difference for the TU candidates.

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# Doctors advise Mike A: See, hear no evil

From page A1

husband must have a change of heart—a change in personality, even.

Nearly a month after the 60-year-old Arroyo survived a critical heart operation, one with a mortality rate of 40 percent, his doctors agreed he could no longer afford to be in the eye of a political storm—or in a situation where he challenges foes to fist fights.

"Any kind of stressful condition can increase your blood pressure and your heart rate. If you get angry at anyone, your political enemies, that's part of stress," Arroyo's heart surgeon Dr. Rommel Cariño said in a recent interview.

"The main (thing) here is a change of lifestyle, change of personality."

"From a Type A personality—one who easily gets angry or irritated, you have to become a Type B—more friendly, more amiable," said Cariño, section chief of valvular surgery at St. Luke's Heart Institute and training officer for the cardiovascular-thoracic training program at the Philippine Heart Center.

Arroyo's main attending physician, Dr. Juliet Gopez-Cervantes, said Arroyo can no longer afford to engage in "fights and arguments."

Arroyo has been at the center of controversy several times. In February, he figured in a shouting match with a lawyer defending journalists he had sued for libel, and challenged the counsel to a fight.

"The main player in preventing complications will be he himself," said Cervantes, a gastroenterologist who heads St. Luke's Medical Center's liver center.

"…That's why we keep on reminding him that probably he has to ignore all the things that are noxious. Anything that is not beautiful, something like 'see no evil, hear no evil.' He has to have a high tolerance for stress."

## Main goal

Cervantes, who was also President Arroyo's attending physician when she was hospitalized, added: "He cannot easily let himself be carried away by things that would upset him, otherwise his health might be compromised."

Asked if Mike Arroyo was out of danger, Cariño said: "No, no. That's why we are emphasizing the need to control the risk factors."

Before he was discharged from the hospital, Arroyo's children asked the doctors how long their father could expect to live with his condition, medically called a dissecting aortic aneurysm.

They were given the statistics: 1 year, 90-percent chance; 5 years, 65 percent to 75 percent; 10 years, 50 percent to 60 percent, and 15 years, 35 percent to 40 percent.

Cervantes said Arroyo should take a more hands-off stance on politics.

"I don't have a picture of how active he is in terms of the position of the President. He can still do so but he has to set some limits," Cervantes said.

"For example, engaging in these discussions which are complicated can upset him, so probably, instead of him being an active participant he will just be a consultant, give advice instead of being directly involved."

She said her patient had made "a lot of sacrifices for the President."

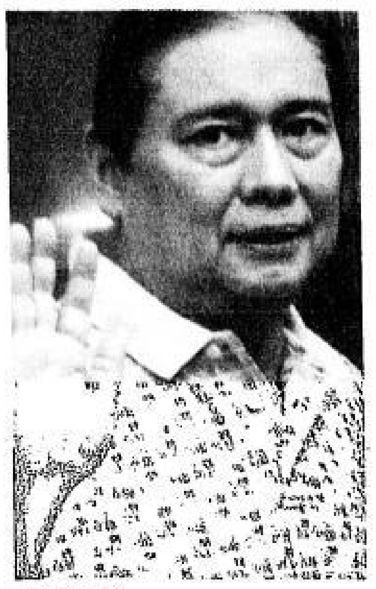
## Diet is key

Cariño and Cervantes said the key to Arroyo's survival is to restrict his diet and keep out stress to prevent hypertension that can trigger a stroke or aneurysm.

Although the arch of Arroyo's aorta—the biggest blood vessel which branches from the heart—was repaired with a graft, the rest of his aorta, from the heart to the groin remained dissected or had weakened walls that are prone to an aneurysm.

On top of that, Arroyo is also "mildly diabetic."

Cariño had said Arroyo's case was one-in-a-million because the location of his aneurysm was in the arch of the aorta.



ARROYO

"Even if he underwent this repair of the aortic arch, within the remaining part of the aorta there is still that tear in the walls … if there will be added problems like uncontrolled blood pressure which can lead to the ballooning of this weak wall, that can lead to aneurysm," Cervantes explained.

She said Arroyo must keep to a healthy diet to avoid developing cholesterol plaques that can deposit in his aorta and other blood vessels. He should also set limits to his physical activities and emotional outbursts.

"We have to realize that at any point in time, there could again be some medical problems. That's why we have to be careful with his diet," she said.

Cervantes said preventing Arroyo from being stressed out is critical during the next three months when the synthetic graft Cariño put in his heart needs to stabilize.

"You can go beyond 10 years if you have a very healthy lifestyle, very careful with your diet and have adequate control of your blood pressure," Cervantes said. "So hopefully, with him we will be able to go beyond and more and that is why we need a lot of cooperation not only from people around her but mainly from him so that he will be able to get a different statistics."

## 'Peace with enemies'

Cervantes said Arroyo had vowed to change.

"With the difficulty that he underwent, with the critical situation that he passed through, probably he is more determined now than before to be vigilant, to be conscious with the level of emotion," Cervantes said.

"Because of the difficulties he went through … and all the reminders his doctors kept telling him to prevent any complications, I think he is more determined now to change not only his lifestyle but also his tolerance to stress," Cervantes said.

"I think he himself is thinking of being at peace with his enemies because it can only trigger some emotional outburst which can shoot up his blood pressure," she said.

## 'This is his awakening'

The day after Cervantes spoke to the INQUIRER, Arroyo announced that he had asked his lawyers to withdraw all the 17 libel cases he had filed against 46 journalists.

"He said he will devote his life now to charity and he knows it is through the blessings of God that we were able to pull him out. This is his awakening," she said.

Cervantes said Arroyo's foes should also be "considerate" of the President's husband by not provoking him into fights.

"This is not the best time to challenge him," she said.

Asked if she expects to see a different Arroyo, Cervantes said: "He has to, not only to prolong his life in a very normal way because you can be alive but confined to a bed which is more difficult. It's also one way of being grateful for all the blessings from God."

She said this was the second time Arroyo had cheated death. She said the first time was when he had angioplasty in December last year.

In both cases, she said Arroyo did not show signs that something was wrong with his heart and she only found out through the most meticulous medical examinations.

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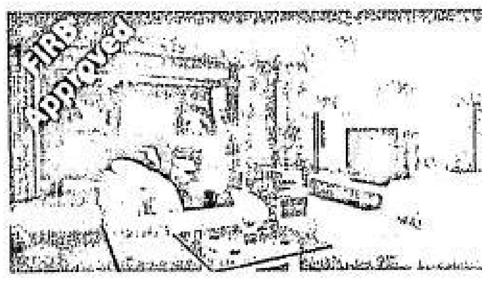

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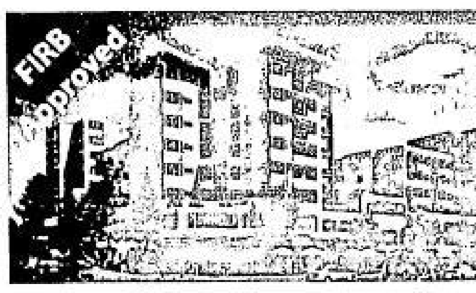

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# Bulacan shoot-out suspect arrested

CAMP OLIVAS, PAMpanga—Police have arrested a suspect in the killing of an Army soldier during a shoot-out that began apparently with a quarrel over campaign posters between the group of Bocaue, Bulacan, mayoral candidate Eduardo Villanueva Jr. and a group of soldiers last Friday.

Cpl. Enrique Aningat, who survived the gunfight, "positively identified" Francisco Villa, 39, as the one who allegedly shot and killed Cpl. Leonardo Pataray, 34, according to a report by police Task Force Bocaue here on Saturday.

## Flagged down

Aningat was on a motorcycle with Pataray when he said they were flagged down by unidentified men in Barangay Bunlo, near the campaign headquarters of Villanueva who is running for mayor under the Bangon Pilipinas party.

Villanueva, who is affiliated with the Genuine Opposition, is a son of Jesus Is Lord movement leader Bro. Eddie Villanueva and a brother of Rep. Joel Villanueva of the party-list group Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac).

Chief Supt. Ismael Rafanan, Central Luzon police director, said the task force was still confirming if Villa was a JIL member or a bodyguard of Villanueva.

"What is clear is that (Villa) came from the JIL headquarters before he passed the checkpoint," Rafanan said, referring to Villanueva's campaign headquarters and a checkpoint set up nearby by the police Provincial Mobile Group.

## Fall guy

Villanueva, however, said Villa was a "fall guy." He said the suspect, who owned a junk shop in Bocaue, was arrested for violating the election gun ban just after 8 a.m. on Friday, some seven hours after the shoot-out.

He said Villa was not a JIL member or his bodyguard. He denied that Villa had come from his campaign headquarters before he was arrested.

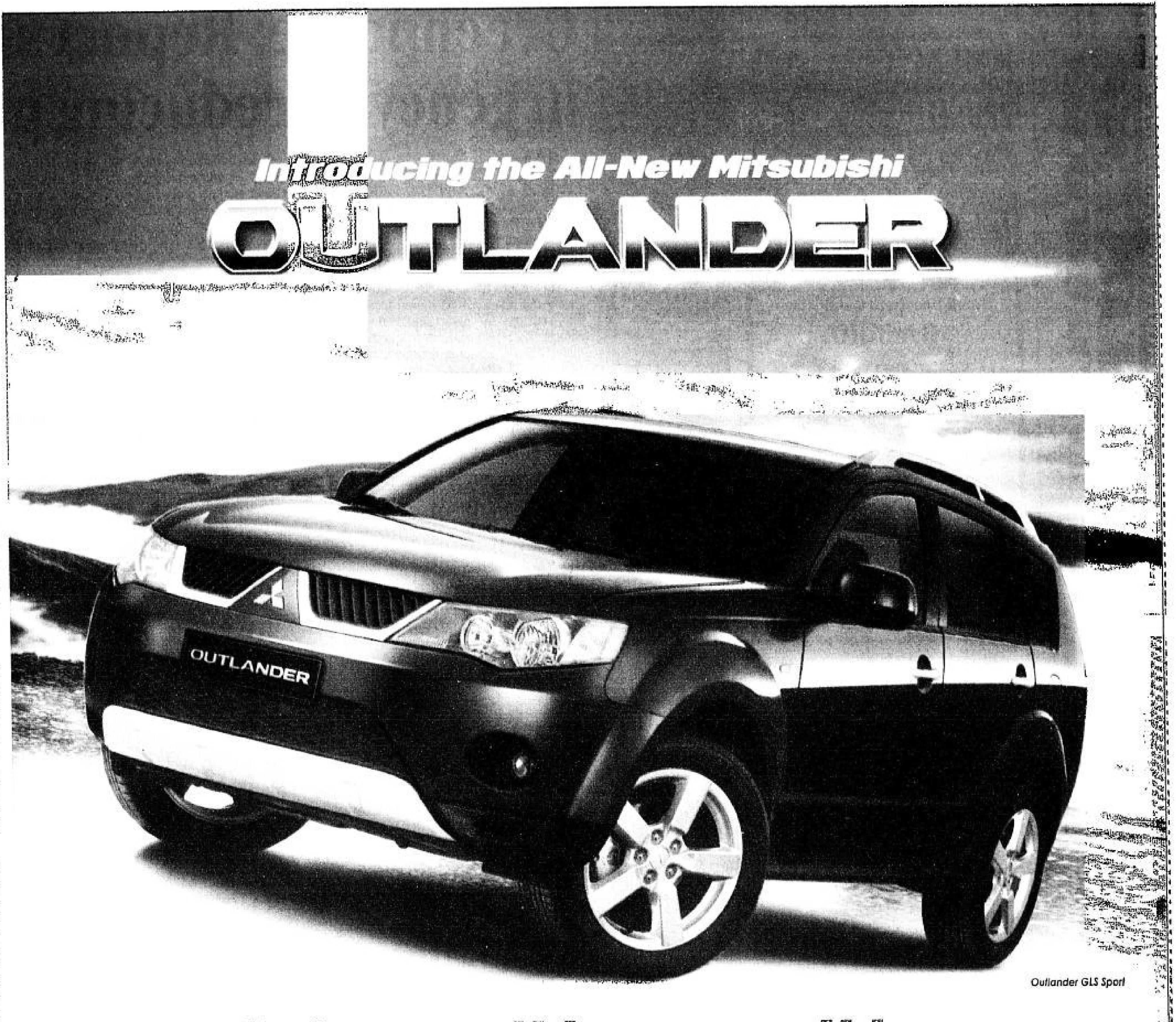
The PMG said they found a .45-cal. pistol tucked in Villa's waist.

Villa has been charged with violating the Omnibus Election Code for carrying a gun during an election period without a permit from the Commission on Elections.

The charge was filed in the prosecutor's office in Malolos City on Friday,' task force officials said.

Rafanan said Villa would face murder charges if tests confirm he had fired the gun and its bullets matched the one that killed Pataray.

*Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon with Christine O. Avendaño in Manila*



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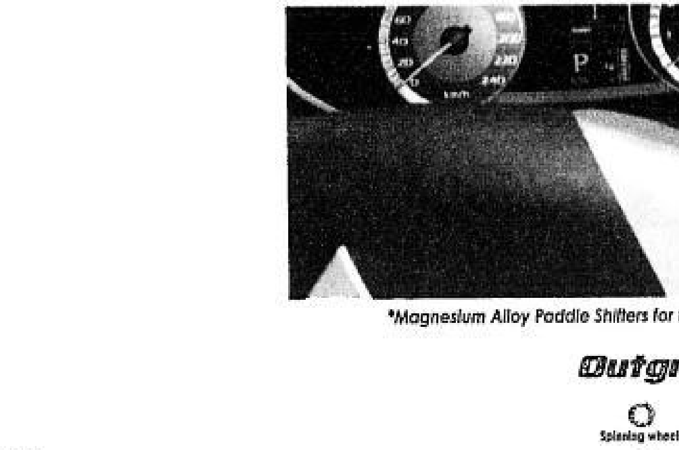

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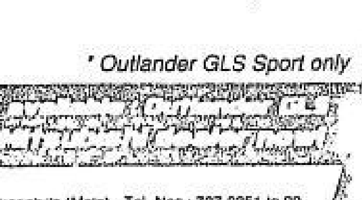

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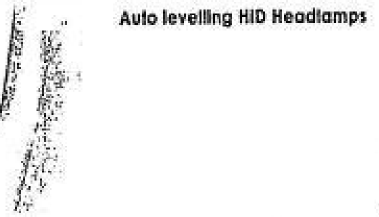

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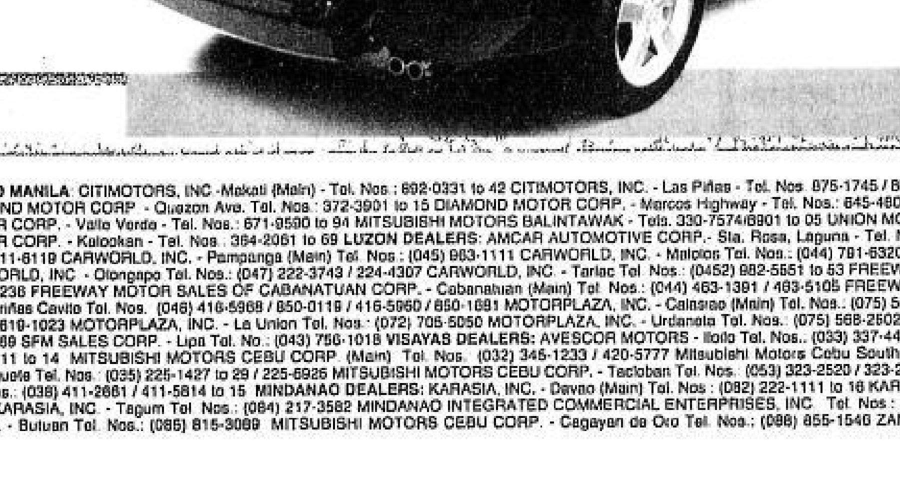

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# Greenpeace: Report shows urgency of reducing gases

By TJ Burgonio

CITING A REPORT BY THE INTER-governmental Panel on Climate Change, Greenpeace has called on the government to take "urgent steps" to help reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

"The report from the IPCC shows clearly that there are no more excuses for inaction in mitigating climate change. The report confirms that immediate action is not only necessary, but doable," said Greenpeace climate and energy campaigner Abigail Jabines.

This, she said, should send a clear message to governments "to revolutionize global energy production and use."

The Philippines, one of the developing countries most vulnerable to climate change, ought to take "urgent steps" to help reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, Jabines said.

"The solutions are clear: A massive uptake of renewable energy in our country, coupled with defined energy efficiency measures," she said in a statement.

In its report on mitigating climate change, IPCC said humans should make sweeping cuts in greenhouse gas emissions over the next 50 years to keep global warming in check.

It said that global carbon dioxide emissions should be cut by between 50 and 85 percent by 2050 to keep the global temperature rise within the 2-degree Celsius threshold that is needed to avert the catastrophic effects of climate change.

Greenpeace has been pressing the government to do its share by setting binding renewable energy targets, imposing a moratorium on the construction of coal-fired power plants, implementing strict energy-efficiency standards, and drafting a program to reduce the country's emissions by 20 percent by 2050, among others.

The passage of a "strong renewable energy law" was crucial to a "low carbon, sustainable energy future" for the country, it said.

The IPCC report's other key findings were: Lifestyle changes can contribute to developing a low-carbon economy; renewable energy has a generally positive effect; energy efficiency in existing and new buildings can considerably reduce carbon emissions with net economic benefits, and about 65 percent of the total mitigation potential is located in the tropics.

The report, agreed on by scientists and officials from over 100 countries, reviews the latest science on the costs and ways to curb emissions growth. It is designed as a blueprint for government action.

## Biofuels Law: Few know it's in effect

THE BIOFUELS LAW came into effect on Sunday with little fanfare or information and only a partial roll-out of the much-vaunted 1-percent coconut diesel blend.

Motorists were surprised to hear that the use of the cleaner fuel was now mandatory.

"I would like to try it but I have some questions first," said Gonzalo Bondad, 44, as he waited for his SUV to be filled up at a Petron gas station in Makati City. "Is it necessary to convert the car beforehand?"

The government is pushing biofuels to cut the country's annual $6 billion-plus oil import bill and rely more on locally produced crops like coconut, sugar, jatropha, palm oil and soybeans.

The Philippines is the world's largest exporter of coconut oil.

But despite hailing the new legislation as an economic and environmental breakthrough, the government has yet to explain how it will implement and police the change.

A gas station supervisor of Petron, the country's largest fuel supplier, said his station had yet to receive the new blend.

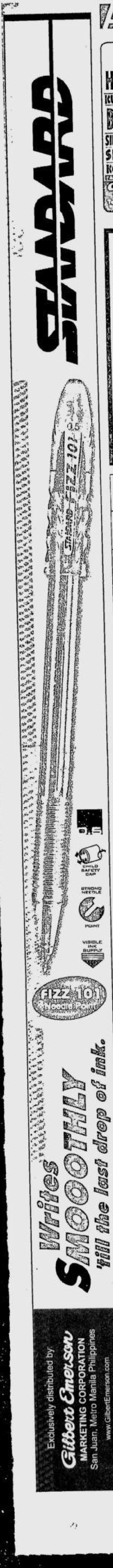
"We were advised to expect it this week," said Rommel Andres. "They told us that we will be giving out leaflets about it."

The new fuel initially comes at no extra expense, but industry officials say it will eventually cost drivers at least 30 centavos more per liter, nearly 1 percent higher than the average retail price of diesel of P33.45 per liter in Metro Manila.

Motorists said they would be willing to shell out more money if it meant less pollution.

"If it will serve the environment, why not?" said Jimmy Gochang, 70. "The air here is really terrible."

The law envisages that gasoline will contain a 5-percent mix of ethanol by 2009. Reuters



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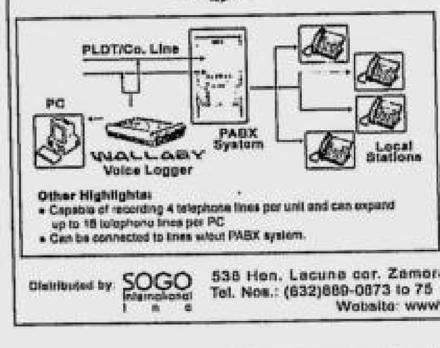

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# It's OK to play with bad heart, Games shows

**By Jeannette I. Andrade**

STRENUOUS SPORTS activities are also for the faint of heart.

This is what the world's first-ever Heart Health Games was out to prove Saturday, with heart patients and doctors participating in various sports events that could literally give you a heart attack.

The event organized by the Philippine Society of Cardiac Catheterization and Interventions Inc. (PSCCI) at the Celebrity Sports Plaza in Quezon City aimed at creating public awareness of the fact that quality of life does not necessarily deteriorate with a diagnosis of heart disease.

Appropriately, the theme of the mini-Olympics was "Don't quit playing games with my heart."

"It is not the end of the world to be told you have heart problems," said Dr. Timothy Dy of PSCCI, who specializes in intervention cardiology.

Most Filipinos believe their active lifestyles would be altered drastically when they are diagnosed with heart disease.

"We are out to show to the public that people who have had an angioplasty or open-heart surgery may still be able to do these (sports) without putting their lives in danger. They can still live normal lives after these procedures," Dy said.

"This (Games) is actually a public information campaign to encourage people to have their hearts checked regularly. Many do not want to have themselves examined because they figure that if they are diagnosed with heart disease, their lives will change for the worst," Dy said.

The Heart Health Games was participated in by recovering coronary artery disease patients who had undergone angioplasty or coronary artery bypass grafts (more commonly known as open-heart surgery) as well as doctors from the Philippine Heart Center, Chinese General Hospital, Capitol Medical Center and other hospitals in Metro Manila.

Coronary artery disease is usually caused by a buildup of fatty deposits and plaque in the arteries that supply blood to the heart. The medical condition may be treated through bypass surgery, in which a detour for the passage of blood is made. Another treatment is angioplasty, in which the coronary arteries are widened to reestablish normal blood flow to the heart.

According to PSCCI, people with a history of high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, high blood pressure, and relatives of people diagnosed with coronary heart disease are at risk of developing arterial blockages.

The PSCCI said that most patients who had undergone angioplasty could return to work a few days after the procedure, although sports activities should be regulated by their doctors.

The patients and their doctors—divided into three teams—participated in three events: Badminton, table tennis and a basketball three-point shootout.

Winning teams were awarded medals. But for the participants of the first Heart Health Games, having good old fun was sweeter than being victorious.

## THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, May 7, 2007
5th Week of Easter

**1st Reading:** Acts 14:5-18
**Gospel:** John 14:21-26

Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever keeps my commandments is the one who loves me. If he loves me, he will also be loved by my Father; I too shall love him and show myself clearly to him."

Judas—not the Iscariot—asked Jesus, "Lord, how can it be that you will show yourself clearly to us and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word and my Father will love him; and we will come to him and make a room in his home. But if anyone does not love me, he will not keep my words, and these words that you hear are not mine but the Father's who sent me.

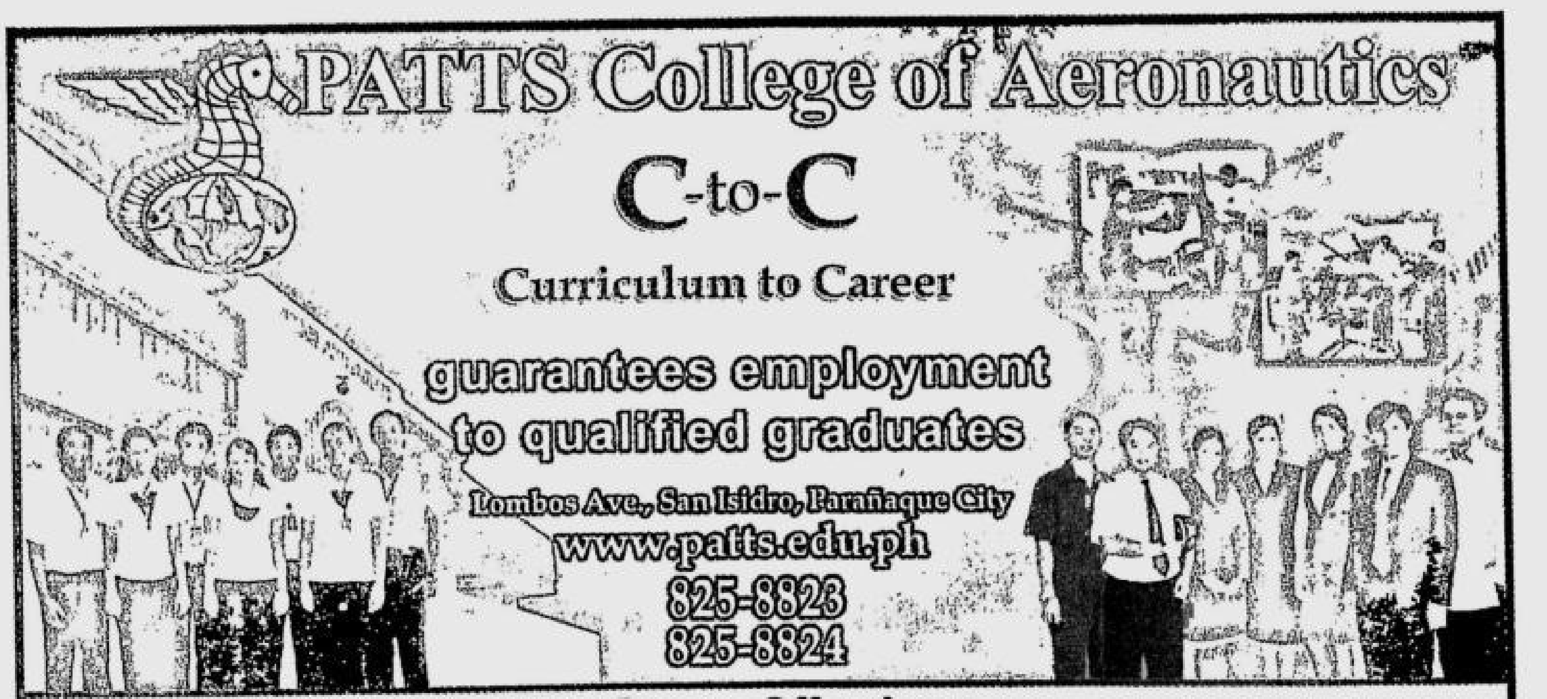
"I told you all this while I was still with you. From now on the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of all that I have told you."

**Commentary**

*Paul and Barnabas heal a cripple (the same as Peter has done). The people think they are gods and want to offer sacrifice to them. They both preach and speak of the good news of the living God now coming to the Gentiles, but oftentimes healings get in the way of hearing the Word of God.*

*Do we hear the Word? Jesus tells us that if we obey the commands that we have been given in the Word then we love God, and the Father will love us, and Jesus will reveal God to us. If we love, then we are true to God's Word. The gift of the Spirit, the Paraclete (one who stands right at our side) both teaches us and helps us to be true to the Word that has been seeded in us and reminds us of all that Jesus has taught. What is the Word of the Lord saying to the Church today and will we make it become reality in our world?*

*Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications) & http://www.claretphilippines.org (Claretian Missionaries in the Philippines)*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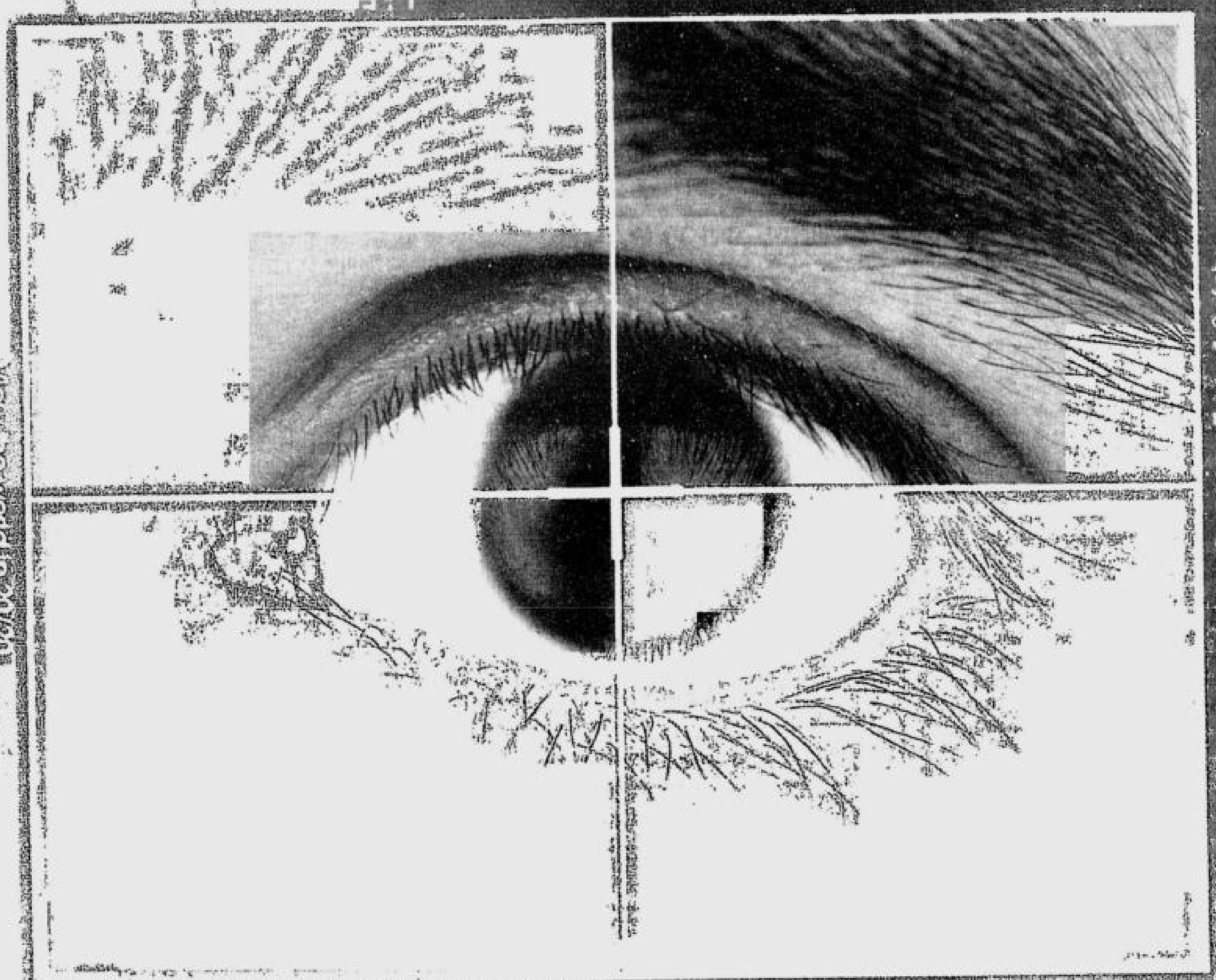

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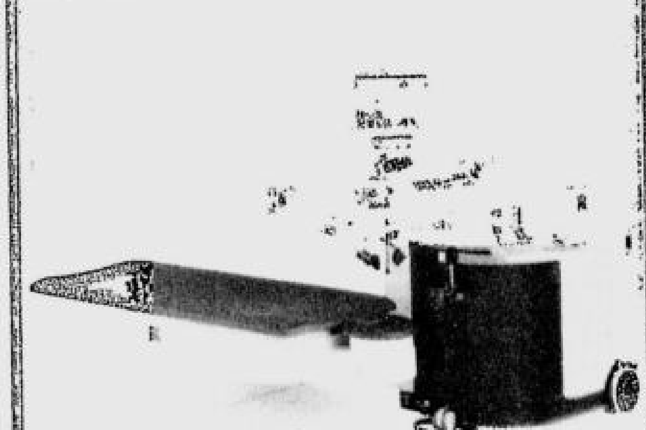

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| Port Charges | $ 317 | |

7N Greek Isles and Turkey Cruise
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RCI's "Splendour of the Seas"
Sail Date: 23 June 2007

| Prices Starting From: | CRUISE ONLY | FLY / CRUISE via KLM |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 1,150 | $ 2,050 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 2,290 | $ 3,190 |
| Port Charges | $ 208.50 | |

7N Eastern Mediterranean Cruise
(Barcelona RT)
RCI's "Voyager of the Seas"
Sail Date: 30 June 2007

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| Interior Stateroom | $ 1,420 | $ 2,320 |
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| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 540 | $ 1,440 |
| Port Charges | $ 230.50 | |

14N Scandinavia and Russia Cruise
(London RT)
Celebrity's "Constellation"
Sail Date: 02 June 2007

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|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 2,180 | $ 3,080 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 3,190 | $ 4,090 |
| Verandah Stateroom | $ 3,320 | $ 4,220 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 690 | $ 1,590 |
| Port Charges | $ 518.50 | |

ALASKA

7N Alaska Tracy Arm Fjord Cruise
(Seattle RT)
RCI's "Vision of the Seas"
Sail Date: 06 July 2007

| Prices Starting From: | CRUISE ONLY | FLY / CRUISE via CX |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 815 | $ 2,365 |
| Verandah Stateroom | $ 2,080 | $ 3,630 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 530 | $ 2,080 |
| Port Charges | $ 307 | |

7N Alaska Hubbard Glacier Cruise
(Vancouver RT)
Celebrity's "Mercury"
Sail Date: 06 June 2007

| Prices Starting From: | CRUISE ONLY | FLY / CRUISE via CX |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 650 | $ 1,725 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 730 | $ 1,805 |
| Verandah Stateroom | $ 1,630 | $ 2,705 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 530 | $ 1,605 |
| Port Charges | $ 318 | |

CARIBBEAN

4N Western Caribbean Cruise
(Fort Lauderdale RT)
Royal Caribbean's "Enchantment of the Seas"
Sail Date: 28 June 2007

| Prices Starting From: | CRUISE ONLY | FLY / CRUISE via CO |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 420 | $ 1,370 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 510 | $ 1,460 |
| Verandah Stateroom | $ 2,610 | $ 3,560 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 540 | $ 1,490 |
| Port Charges | $ 142 | |

7N Eastern Caribbean Cruise
(Miami RT)
Royal Caribbean's "Liberty of the Seas"
Sail Date: 23 June 2007

| Prices Starting From: | CRUISE ONLY | FLY / CRUISE via CO |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 780 | $ 1,730 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 1,120 | $ 2,070 |
| Verandah Stateroom | $ 1,760 | $ 2,710 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 690 | $ 1,640 |
| Port Charges | $ 204 | |

CANADA & NEW ENGLAND

9N Canada and New England Cruise
(Baltimore RT)
Royal Caribbean's "Grandeur of the Seas"
Sail Date: 01 June 2007

| Prices Starting From: | CRUISE ONLY | FLY / CRUISE via CO |
|---|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 710 | $ 1,785 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 1,670 | $ 2,745 |
| Verandah Stateroom | $ 1,660 | $ 2,735 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | $ 410 | $ 1,485 |
| Port Charges | $ 247.50 | |

ASIA (FREE 3RD & 4TH)

5N Spice of Southeast Asia Cruise
(Singapore RT)
Royal Caribbean's "Rhapsody of the Seas"
Sail Date: 12 December 2007

| Prices Starting From: | CRUISE ONLY |
|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 549.00 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 739.00 |
| Verandah Stateroom | $ 949.00 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | FREE!!! |
| Port Charges | $ 136.00 |
| Gratuities | $ 48.75 |

4N Isles of Southeast Asia Cruise
(Singapore RT)
Royal Caribbean's "Rhapsody of the Seas"
Sail Date: 17 December 2007

| Prices Starting From: | CRUISE ONLY |
|---|---|
| Interior Stateroom | $ 439.00 |
| Ocean View Stateroom | $ 579.00 |
| Verandah Stateroom | $ 719.00 |
| 3rd & 4th Guest | FREE!!! |
| Port Charges | $ 114.50 |
| Gratuities | $ 48.75 |

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IATA PTAA DOT153-00

# Return excess rent, Miaa ordered

THE COURT OF APpeals has affirmed a Pasay City Regional Trial Court decision ordering the Manila International Airport Authority to refund more than P7 million in excess rentals plus interest to the proponent of the Park 'N Fly project.

But the appellate court struck down portions of the 2003 Pasay City RTC ruling that ordered the Miaa not to increase by more than five percent the rental fees on its property where the Park 'N Fly complex stands, and extended by another 20 years the lease agreement between Miaa and Petroleum Distributor and Services Corp. (PDSC), the Park 'N Fly proponent.

The Park 'N Fly is a complex of parking spaces, convenience stores and offices for passengers of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

## Increased rate

The Pasay City RTC issued the ruling after PDSC contested the 1998 Miaa resolution that raised the rental for the Park 'N Fly property by 20 percent, saying it was implemented without notice and hearing.

PDSC also contended that it had a verbal agreement with a special Miaa committee that the rental for the latter's property would not be increased by more than five percent.

It also sought a reformation of its contract with the Miaa to extend the lease period before the Park 'N Fly complex would be turned over to the airport authority, saying it needed more time to recover its losses after the construction cost escalated beyond what it expected due to the poor sub-soil condition of the property.

The Miaa questioned the Pasay City RTC decision before the Court of Appeals, saying it increased the rates based on its power to fix the rate of dues, charges and fees for the use of airport premises. Miaa also said there was no need to change its contract with PDSC because its terms were clear.

## Notice required

The appellate court only agreed with the Pasay City RTC's decision to nullify and stop the implementation of Resolution 98-30, which increased the rental fees by 20 percent, and to order the Miaa to refund the excess rentals to PDSC after the airport authority increased the fees.

The PDSC paid the increased fees, under protest.

It cited a Supreme Court decision declaring the resolution null and void in another case because only the transportation secretary can increase the fees and the Miaa could only make recommendations. It also said the Administrative Code requires a notice and public hearing in the fixing of rates. *Leila B. Salaverria*

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# Build them [resorts] and they [tourists] will come–DOT

**By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.**

PANGLAO ISLAND, BOHOL—Saying that the growth in foreign tourist arrivals will greatly depend on an increase in accommodations, the Department of Tourism yesterday called on businessmen to invest more in tourist resorts in the country.

"The growth of tourist arrivals is dependent on the pace of capacity expansion," Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano said yesterday as he toured the newly opened five-star Eskaya Beach Resort and Spa located on the white-sand beach of this picturesque island, not far from Bohol's famed Chocolate Hills.

He said the involvement of the private sector was important for the DOT to achieve its target of bringing in more than 5 million foreign tourists yearly by 2010.

This year, the DOT is targeting at least 3.1 million foreign tourist arrivals.

Durano said tourist arrivals had been growing an average of 14 percent annually in the last three years, which he claimed was bigger than the total growth rate of inbound traffic to Asia. "It means we are getting a bigger part of the pie," he said.

Foreign tourists generate more economic activity than domestic tourists, he said. He said one foreign tourist usually spends 10 times what a domestic tourist spends.

He said 3,000 new rooms will be opening up this year.

The new 16-hectare Eskaya resort has five completed villas, which is the first phase of what will be a 15-villa sprawl with a total project cost of P600 million, said owner Richard Lim, whose other businesses include salt production and shipping.

The presidential suite, which has its own swimming pool and a bathroom big enough for two regular bedrooms, will go for more than $2,000 (almost P96,000) a night. The cheapest room is $300 (almost P14,400) a night.

Fe Ginete, sales manager of the adjacent Bohol Beach Club Resort, agreed there were times when their 168 rooms were not enough for the growing number of tourists coming here. She said they would be building new rooms next year.

The Bohol-Cebu area is "the fastest growing tourist attraction" in the country, said Bohol Rep. Edgar Chato, who also heads the tourism committee in the House of Representatives.

Earlier, President Macapagal-Arroyo hosted the prince of Saudi Arabia who has investments on Panglao Island in partnership with the Ayala group.

Tourism on this island is projected to get a boost from the planned Panglao International Airport, the construction of which is projected to start in 2008. Durano said half of the target land area for the airport has already been bought.

The DOT also inaugurated yesterday its regional sub-office in Tagbilaran City.

**A BEACH** scene on Panglao

PHOTO BY BUTCH JIMENEZ

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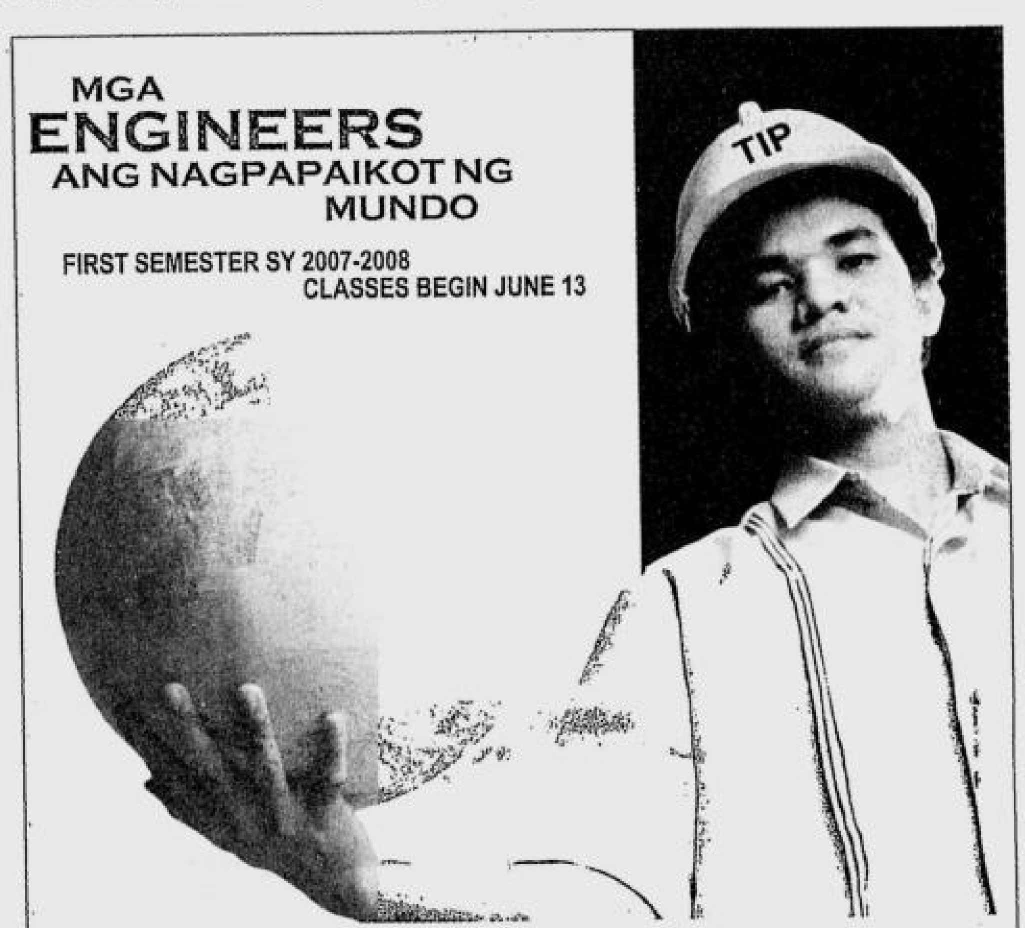

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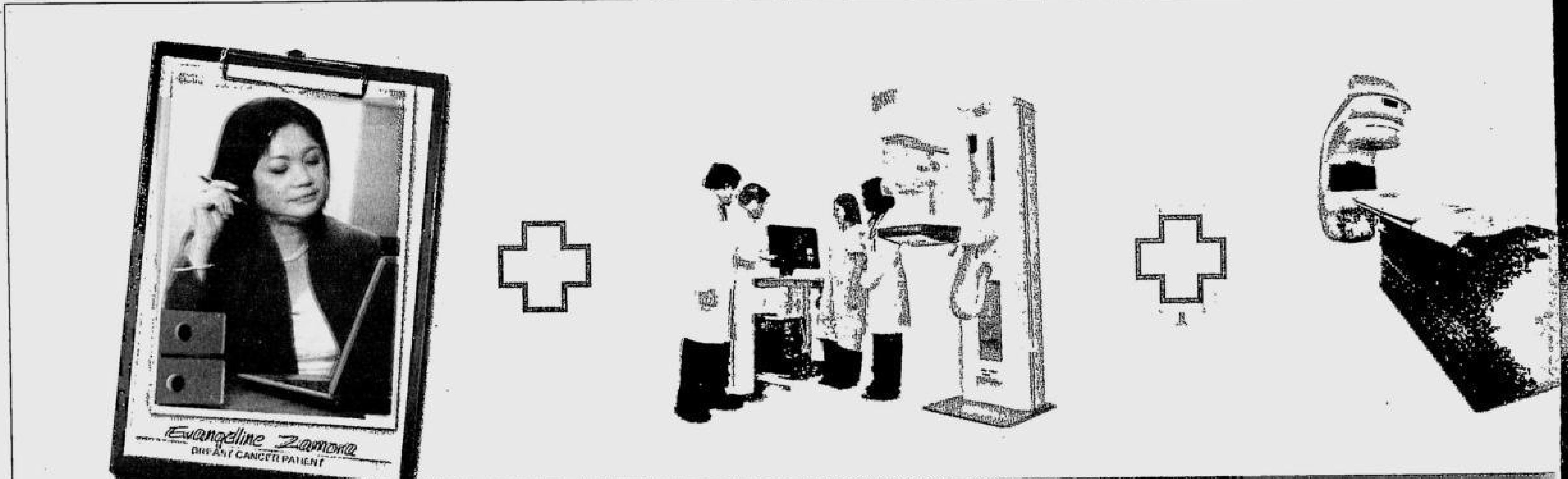

Evangeline Zamora on Health Partnership at The Medical City Cancer Center

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# Razing of JIL church part of deal with gov't, says realty firm

By Tarra Quismundo

THE PRIVATE REAL ESTATE firm involved in a development project in Villamor Air Base with the state-owned Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA) has defended the demolition of the old Philippine Air Force theater that was being used by the Jesus Is Lord (JIL) Movement as a place of worship.

In a statement, Megaworld Corp. said last Tuesday's demolition of the theater was in compliance with the work schedule that called for the razing of structures in the project area.

JIL leader Bro. Eddie Villanueva, who is identified with the political opposition, charged the demolition was an administration-led effort to harass his congregation in light of his endorsement of senatorial candidates of the Genuine Opposition.

## Just doing its job

"Megaworld has mapped out a development timetable that it has to strictly follow for the more than P10-billion urban redevelopment project. Any unnecessary delay arising from the BCDA's failure to fulfill its contractual obligations—such as completing the demolition and replication program on schedule—will result in financial losses to Megaworld," the firm said in a statement to the INQUIRER.

"In such a worst-case scenario, we would be constrained to seek appropriate damages from the BCDA. In tearing down the PAF building in question, the BCDA, together with the PAF, was merely doing its job—that was long overdue. It was not to harass JIL or its members," Megaworld said.

The BCDA, whose mandate it is to convert former and current military bases to profitable use, had partnered with Megaworld in October 2003 to develop a 25-hectare site in Villamor in Pasay City into a commercial, residential and recreation complex.

The PAF and the BCDA, on the other hand, had signed an agreement in 1995 whereby the Air Force would demolish structures that stood in the way of development projects. In return, the BCDA would construct facilities for the PAF. So far, it has built P294-million worth of structures for the PAF.

## Temporary use

"It must be pointed out that JIL did not own the PAF theater building; neither did it pay any rent for it. The BCDA, after the PAF which owned the property, had merely granted JIL temporary use of the premises," Megaworld said.

The firm said it had provided a temporary relocation site for the JIL church at Menzi Park which is near the old structure, adding that it "had bent over backward to accommodate the religious group."

"We have gone out of our way to provide a temporary place of worship for JIL members by renovating an existing structure at Menzi Park ... JIL is free to use it for two years," Megaworld said.

"As a further gesture of goodwill, we have identified a site within Villamor that JIL may use on a permanent basis subject to mutually agreed upon terms," it added.

## Other structures

Megaworld said that other structures it had torn down earlier for the project included the Integrated Montessori Center Inc., St. Therese of the Child Jesus School, the temporary staff house for PAF enlisted personnel, and the 5223rd Command Wing and the Engineering headquarters.

All the structures were covered in the demolition and replication provisions of the BCDA-Megaworld joint venture agreement, the firm said.

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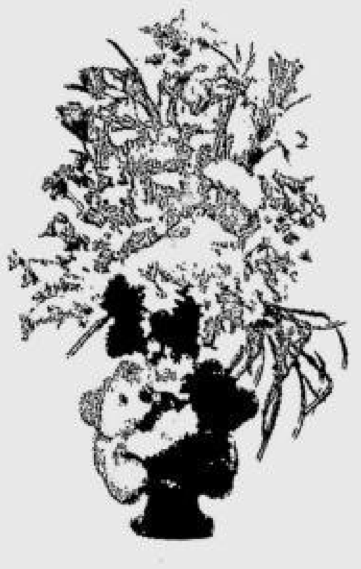

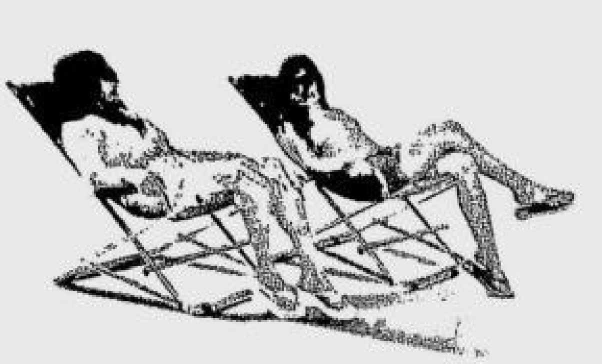

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# OPINION

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## Battered, Brawnered

**EDITORIAL**

IT IS TRUE THAT A CITIZENSHIP ISSUE CAN always be revisited—even if the Supreme Court itself has already ruled on it. As the high court said in a landmark case: "decisions declaring the acquisition or denial of citizenship cannot govern a person's future status with finality. This is because a person may subsequently reacquire, or for that matter lose, his citizenship under any of the modes recognized by law for the purpose."

This is a reasonable principle; but it also requires reasonable standards for revisiting a citizenship case. Unfortunately for the people of Naga, the citizens of Bicol and the country's democratic project as a whole, the first division of the Commission on Elections has seen fit to revisit the Mayor Jesse Robredo citizenship issue—and in the process reverse a six-year-old en banc decision—without benefit of new evidence. The only thing new in the decision declaring Robredo a non-Filipino is the participation of Election Commissioners Romeo Brawner and Nicodemo Ferrer: the first a law classmate and the second a former law partner of Robredo's political enemy, Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte.

When Robredo, a Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for Government Service, ran in 1988 for the first of what became five terms as mayor of Naga, he was allied with Villafuerte, an uncle of his. Political differences quickly severed their relationship, however, starting with a quarrel over a classic patronage issue: naming the city's chief of police. Since then, Robredo and Villafuerte have been on opposite sides of the fence; this year, Robredo is facing Villafuerte's nephew Jojo in the race for mayor. Since their political parting of ways, too, Robredo has faced citizenship cases filed by Villafuerte's camp. "It's very ironic," Robredo told the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, "because when I was their candidate I was a Filipino citizen. When I became their opponent, I was not a Filipino citizen anymore."

As anyone who remembers Villafuerte's snarling-sentry role in the two attempts to impeach President Macapagal-Arroyo, the head of the President's party Kampi has a gift, even a genius, for the political uses of legal gobbledygook. You could say, then, that Robredo's sudden legal problem was cunningly fabricated; he had been Villafuerte'd.

Apparently, however, this facility for navigating treacherous legal waters to arrive safely at one's political destination is shared by Villafuerte's law classmate and law partner too. How else can the first division's resolution of May 2, 2007, authored by Brawner (with Ferrer concurring and Commissioner Resurreccion Borra dissenting), be understood? "Rest assured," the resolution read, "any opinion arrived at in this resolution were [sic] based on a meticulous examination of the evidences [sic] presented and do not involve the personal bias by [sic] the Commissioners concerned." And yet, when one reads the decision, there is no mention, no use made, of "the evidences presented"—and certainly no trace that new evidence contradicting the basis of the June 21, 2001 resolution of the entire Comelec (which declared Robredo a Filipino citizen) was presented in the first place. It was a decision based on brute force. Robredo, in other words, was Brawnered.

Brawner, a former Court of Appeals justice, spent more time (a) defending the Comelec's decision to hear the case against Robredo and (b) defending himself and Ferrer from charges of partiality raised in Robredo's motion to inhibit, than (c) explaining why he and Ferrer thought Robredo was a Chinese citizen. In fact, Brawner ignores the Comelec's en banc decision of 2001 completely; he does not mention that there has been a pattern of citizenship cases filed against Robredo, and decided in favor of the mayor, going back 15 years; he blithely concludes (based on what reasoning?) that "respondent had not performed any act showing his intention to elect Filipino as his citizenship."

And yet, right in the middle of his resolution, he quotes examples of "acts of deliberate choice"—such as voting during election time or running for public office—that constitute "implied election" of Filipino citizenship. Why can't he see that these, too, apply to Robredo? Because no one is so blind as he who refuses to see.

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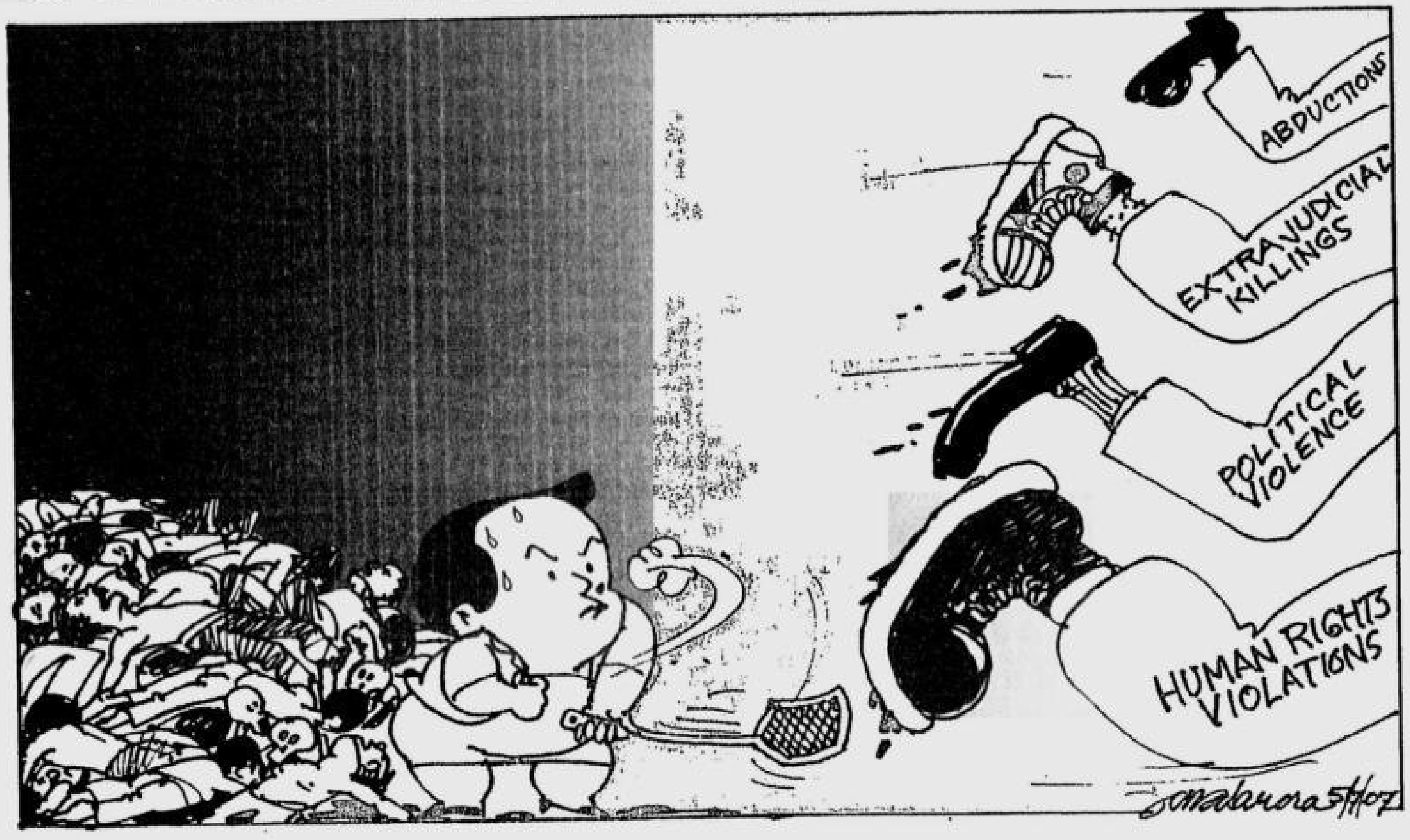

## Who are the duly elected officers of the NPC?

**AS I SEE IT**

*Neal H. Cruz*

WHY DOES THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INsurance System own the mural painted by National Artist Vicente Manansala on the wall of the dining hall of the National Press Club (NPC) building?

As mentioned earlier, the lot was donated to the NPC by the Philippine government more than 50 years ago. The lot and the two buildings constructed on it were mortgaged by the NPC to the GSIS as a collateral for the loan used to construct the buildings.

The NPC failed to redeem that mortgage, so the GSIS foreclosed it and became the owner of the lot and buildings. The NPC also did not pay the real estate taxes on the property through the years. So the city government of Manila sold the property at a public auction and the GSIS bought it. Therefore, the GSIS has a double title to the property: the first, through the foreclosure; and the second, through the auction sale.

As already stated, the mural was painted by Manansala on the *lawanit* walls of the dining hall. In fact, the door, serving window from the kitchen and air-conditioning ducts were incorporated into the mural itself. It was painted while the building was still undergoing finishing touches. Thus, it can be said that the mural was an integral part of the building. It could not be removed without tearing down the whole wall. (The mural is different from a finished picture frame that you bring in and hang on a wall.) Last December, the whole wall of the NPC dining hall on which the Manansala mural was painted was torn down and replaced with a new wall.

Clearly, the mural is part of the NPC building owned by the GSIS. Therefore, its owner is the GSIS and the act of taking it away and selling it was tantamount to qualified theft.

"No part of the building, which is owned and titled in the name of GSIS, may be removed or disposed (of) by you without our prior consent," said the letter signed by lawyer Estrella C. Elamparo, chief legal counsel of the GSIS.

"As the owner of the building and the land on which the building stands, all accessories attached thereto are, by law, considered the property of GSIS.

"Should you fail to comply with this demand, we will be constrained to take all necessary legal action—including the filing of appropriate criminal and civil cases—against you (Mabasa) and all the responsible officers and members of your (group)," the letter warned.

As a result of the controversy, the GSIS also told the NPC to vacate the premises as it has not been paying rent to the GSIS all these years, although the NPC is collecting rent from its tenants and deriving income from its bar and dining hall. The NPC also owes millions of pesos in unpaid electricity, water and phone bills.

* * *

Now for the NPC election. Why is it not finished yet and why is the Mabasa group acting as officers of the NPC? This is what happened:

The election was set for May 7, 2006 (not February as earlier stated). The election committee, appointed by incumbent NPC president Antonio Antonio, was composed of veteran journalists headed by Jose Pavia, executive director of the Philippine Press Institute. The members were Gil Santos, former publisher of the Journal Group of Publications, Leonides Valencia, former publisher of the Philippine Standard, and lawyer Lamberto Castro, former senior reporter of Manila Bulletin and currently a journalism professor.

This committee disqualified Louie Logarta, auditor, for unpaid office rentals totaling P66,150. In retaliation, Logarta had a board meeting declare the Pavia committee illegal and had a new election committee formed.

On May 4, the Mabasa group filed a petition for a temporary restraining order against the Pavia committee (not against the election itself), withdrew it on the same day, then refiled it the next day.

The election went on as scheduled on May 7. The Reyes group held its orderly election on the fourth floor of the NPC building. The Mabasa group held its own at the NPC driveway. There was no roster of voters at the driveway. Anybody who entered the NPC grounds was asked to sign a piece of paper and then vote, without even checking if he was a qualified voter. Those who had already voted upstairs were asked to vote again. I and former Press Secretary Gregorio Cendaña and other companions were among those persuaded to vote again. We agreed out of *pakikisama*, thinking that nothing will come out of the rebel election anyway.

The candidates of Reyes' Reform Party won this election. But the next day, the Mabasa group went to court. Judge Aida Layug of the Manila RTC, declaring the Pavia committee legal, nevertheless nullified the poll results supervised by it and called for new elections on June 18, 2006 to be supervised by her. The Reyes candidates boycotted that new election. They did not file certificates of candidacy with the new election committee and the Mabasa candidates did not withdraw their candidacies with the Pavia committee.

Since the rival group boycotted the election, Judge Layug declared all the Mabasa candidates the winners. This group managed to have President Macapagal-Arroyo preside over their oathtaking.

Meanwhile, NPC president Antonio and the Pavia committee asked the Court of Appeals to nullify Judge Layug's order. The petition said Layug nullified the May 7 results when that was not enjoined by the TRO issued by another judge. And Layug herself declared the TRO as a product of forum-shopping and sentenced Logarta and seven others to two days imprisonment each. Besides, the Mabasa group asked neither for the nullification of the May 7 results nor for the holding of new elections.

Really confusing, isn't it? Unfortunately, the appeals court is taking its own sweet time clearing the confusion.

## 'Bastusan na'

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

IF AT FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED, TRY AND try again. That seems to be the motto of this regime. Or more specifically of Ronaldo Puno, the DILG boss (in the Mafiosi sense of the term), despite the fact that he has studiously distanced himself from the effort to oust Jejomar Binay, pointing to the Ombudsman as the culprit. Hell, the Ombudsman can't see crookedness if it stared her in the face, or unless Puno puts a name on the blank space. Ombudsman is shortcut for Obfuscated Woman.

They couldn't get Binay the last time, so they're doing it this time when he least expects it. Indeed, when the world least expects it, when election day is nigh and when Binay couldn't possibly lose even if he voted against himself. The only Lapid Makati knows is *chicharon*. The only wonder is why the owners of that famous product, which guarantees to not make you old, have not applied for an injunction for Lito to be forced to change his surname.

The unbelievable gall of these people! Only a month ago, I was saying that after the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy classified this country as being the most corrupt in all of Asia—no small thanks to its current leaders who have replaced gambling with looting as the national pastime—this regime would be a little more hesitant to oust elected local officials on grounds of corruption. The hypocrisy would be more patent now, if it hadn't been so then: You want to oust anyone for being *kawatan*, oust GMA. I should have known this regime was beyond being embarrassed. I should have believed myself when I said that the more this country's leaders are proven to have committed heinous crimes, the more energetically they try to punish others for those crimes.

Lito Lapid says Binay should do as he did: Bow to the majesty of the law. He himself was suspended for six months because of irregularities, and he stepped down willingly. Well, crookedness was the least of the Kapampangans' problems with him when he was governor. For all you know, they were probably thankful he retained enough imagination to be a minor crook—at least that was a sign of intelligence. It is all very well to bow down to the majesty of the law—except that Lapid sees the majesty of the law to be wearing the face of GMA. That face is neither majestic nor legal. It is cruel and unusual punishment.

The law wears a far fairer face, in the aesthetic as much as juridical sense, though a quite stern one. Thou shalt not talk to a Comelec commissioner while the votes are being counted, it says majestically. Lapid wants anyone to bow down to the majesty of the law, he should tell that to his master and commander before anybody else.

The travesty goes further. It's not just Binay who has been tyrannized in this wise, my favorite mayor has been so too. Somebody texted me last Thursday night that the Comelec had suspended Jesse Robredo of Naga City, and I thought the sender was pulling my leg. I waited for the punch line, none came. That was the punch line, or the punch that was delivered flush in the face of the residents of Naga City.

*Onli in da Pilipins?* No, *onli in dis regime.*

Robredo's opponents in the past had toyed with raising the question of citizenship against him—he has a Chinese father and a Filipino mother—but no one had really seriously considered carrying it out, for good reason. He is more Filipino than any Filipino born and raised in this country—certainly he is more Filipino than either GMA or Puno—and more Nagueño than anyone, man, woman, or beast, Naga has ever known.

I myself thought the issue of citizenship had been dispelled once and for all when he won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for governance some years ago. What the hell was that, an award given to a Chinese? Naga had every reason to be proud a Nagueño had won the award. The whole country had every reason to be proud a Filipino had won the award.

The one grand image I have of Jesse, which I wrote about some years ago, was of him in shorts at the crack of dawn, shoveling away the knee-deep mud that had fallen on Naga after a fierce storm the night before, the first one in the whole city to do so. If that wasn't patriotism, I don't know what is. The Comelec's decision to suspend him does not make him a fake citizen in a real country, it makes him a real citizen in a fake country.

Only Luis Villafuerte, who is truly GMA's own, sharing as he does the same values or lack of them, would actually think of doing this. It's the only way his nephew, Jojo can beat Jesse. I don't know which one now has more brain damage from banging his head against a wall—Lito Lapid or Jojo Villafuerte. Jesse has been mayor of Naga City for as long as many Nagueños can remember. He can't lose even if he ordered the residents of Naga City to vote against him.

The people who have been warning that this government will cheat in these elections and have invited foreign observers to try and stop it are wrong about their timetable. This government will cheat not just on election day, it is cheating right now. It is cheating in every way that it is possible to cheat. If it cannot beat you by spending massively, it will steal your votes. If it cannot beat you by stealing your votes, it will oust you from the race—or from office after you win. If it cannot oust you, it will kill you. All three are happening at this very moment, even as we speak. One is tempted to say this is the worst election in this country ever. But more than that, what election?

*Bastusan na*. Question is: What the hell are we going to do about it? Or are we going to just be content to resort to the only form of cheating that is left to us?

Which, like Eddie Villanueva's son has done, is to cheat death?

# More on the party-list system

### SOUNDING BOARD

*Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.*

IN MY COLUMN LAST WEEK, I USED TWO phrases: "party-list representation" and "sectoral representation." Some people have asked me whether they are two different things. Well, the answer is both yes and no. Better yet, one might say that sectoral representation can also take place within a party-list system.

Part of the problem in trying to define the party-list system is the fact that there are various kinds of party-list systems. Writers speak of an **open list** system, or a **closed list** system, or a **free list** system. But the simplest of these is what is called the "closed party-list system."

In the latter system, political parties make a list of their candidates in the order of preference. During elections, voters do not vote for individual candidates but for the party of their choice. After all the ballots are counted, seats are allotted to each party in accordance with the percentage of the popular vote each obtains. Thus, the party that obtains 30 percent of the popular votes would be allocated 30 percent of the available seats in the legislative body.

What is the advantage of such a system? The advantage is that in such a system representation can be won not just by the major political parties but even by smaller parties which would otherwise not have a chance to win seats. Thus, the system is also called "proportional representation." Each party or interest group can win representation in proportion to the size of the constituency it represents. It is thus hoped that the system can be more democratic.

Essentially, this is what we have in the House of Representatives, but with two major modifications. The first modification is that the system is not applied to the entire House but only to 20 percent of the House. The 20 percent limitation is an indication that it is meant to be a "toe in the water" experiment which can be expanded if it works.

The other modification is based on the assumption that the constitutional commission envisioned the system as a means for empowering disadvantaged sectors. Thus, during the first three terms of the post-Edsa Congress, only the disadvantaged sectors were allowed to participate. These sectors were identified as "the labor, peasant, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, women, youth, and such other sectors as may be provided by law, except the religious sector." Traditional political parties were not allowed to participate.

A subsequent decision of the Supreme Court, however, interpreting both the text of the Constitution and the party-list law, expanded this preference for the disadvantaged sectors beyond the three terms such that now only such sectors can participate in the system. This decision was a victory for those in the Constitutional Commission who had campaigned to permanently reserve party-list seats for disadvantaged groups. Thus, what we now have is a limited "sectoral representation" within the party-list system. Sectoral groups win seats in proportion to the number of votes they obtain.

What is happening now, however, is that, since party-list representation is reserved for disadvantaged groups, and since it is said that it is less expensive to win a party-list seat than it is to campaign for a district seat, disadvantaged sectors in need of campaign funds are tempted to sell seats to moneyed candidates who would like to win congressional seats at a cheaper cost.

In the light of all this, there is another important aspect of the decision of the Supreme Court which needs special attention. The Court also said that "the persons nominated by the party-list candidate-organization must be persons **belonging to marginalized and underrepresented sectors, organizations and parties.**"

The way I understand this pronouncement of the Court is that it is not enough that a person running for a party-list seat represent or feign to represent a disadvantaged sector. He must also belong to the disadvantaged group. As the Court also said, representation of the disadvantaged "can be feigned."

I am not sure, however, that such a requirement would always serve the best interest of disadvantaged groups. Such groups may be disadvantaged precisely because they do not have members capable of representing them in deliberative assemblies. Thus, I would rather read the Court's language to mean that the person must at least have a track record of advocating the cause of the disadvantaged. Hence the urgent need of publicizing the names of nominees and the importance of the Supreme Court's recent rebuff of the Comelec's hard-headed "secrecy policy."

Having said that, I might still have another problem. According to the Constitution, the only difference in qualifications between district representatives and party-list representatives is that a party-list representative does not represent a district and therefore need not have resided in a single district for at least one year immediately preceding the election. The Constitution does not seem to require an ideological qualification for a party-list representative. Or, does the Constitution imply such qualification?

# Some lessons from French political parties

### COMMENTARY

*Roland G. Simbulan*

THE MAY 6 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION IN FRANCE is clearly a contest between the ideologies of the rightist Union for a Popular Movement (UMP), with Nicolas Sarkozy as candidate, and the Left, as represented by the Socialist Party (PS) of Segolene Royal. The smaller French parties, like the centrist-right Union for French Democracy, the Movement for France, The Greens, the French Communist Party, the Republican and Citizens' Movement, the Radical Left Party, the Front National of the extreme right, and the extreme Left's the Lo and the Revolutionary Communist League, have traditionally been aligned with the dominant Left or Right parties. Alliances are usually based on the ideological commonality of party programs or certain parts of these.

The French semi-parliamentary political system has always been touted as a model by certain Filipino politicians who try to suit it to their own designs. In 1973, Ferdinand Marcos tailored the Constitution with a unicameral Batasang Pambansa headed by a prime minister, but with Marcos staying on as a strong president. Speaker Jose de Venecia and the proponents of the failed Charter change of 2006 have been pushing for a similar model to accommodate a Prime Minister De Venecia alongside a strong republican president, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Still, we can learn a thing or two from the French, their political system, their elections and very mature political party system.

Alhough France is a parliamentary democracy, with its Assemblée Nationale whose majority members elect a prime minister, it has a president directly elected by the French people in national elections. The Assemblée is composed of 577 directly elected deputies while the Senate has 321 senators elected by an electoral college representing local communities and French expats.

The role of an elected president was carved by Charles de Gaulle when he founded the Fifth Republic in 1958. But the role of the monarch, which was abolished by the French, has been taken over by a strong French president, whose power is derived from the people by direct voting. The president chooses the prime minister from the majority group or coalition in Parliament. The president is so powerful that he can call for the dissolution of the Assemblée, which cannot remove him. Likewise, the president may call for a referendum and determine the policies implemented by the government under the prime minister.

The national electorate is directly courted by politicians with presidential aspirations, but it is also an electorate that is subdivided into defined political and ideological bailiwicks.

Political parties are the critical institutions of French democracy. They are rooted in ideological and class conflicts within French society. Fundamentally, French political parties are differentiated: first, by their economic programs; and second, by their perception of the role of the state in the implementation of that program. Issues, like the identity of France in the integrated European Union, the Socialists' 30-hour workweek, crime and public spending for police and the health care system, are likewise critical issues to which a political party's presidential candidates must give a credible and human face before the national electorate, using their party's platforms and ideology as vehicle.

Sarkozy's political party is considered to be the heir of Gaullism in France. It is the political party of the current president of France, Jacques Chirac. Its platform includes a bias for privatization, deregulation, competition and accelerated integration into the European Union. With a reported party membership of 294,000, the UMP is the majority party in the Assemblée. It is considered to be the party of the Right and conservatives in France.

Royal's party, the largest opposition party inside and outside of Parliament, was the party of former President François Mitterand. It brings together the Left, the center Left and social democrats. It has a program for protecting French industries and French workers from unemployment and it has taken a more cautious approach towards European Union integration and economic globalization. More state support for basic social services is a permanent socialist platform. So are the regulation of profit-seeking sectors and the protection of the vulnerable sectors of society--like the disabled, the elderly, the women, the unemployed and immigrants. It has a reported party membership of 218,000. Not far behind the PS in membership is the French Communist Party which was founded as the French section of the Communist Internationale in 1920.

In short, the ongoing political activity in France is not only an election. It is a debate between the Right (which is representing the forces of globalization) and the Left (which is championing the vulnerable sectors adversely affected by globalization).

French politicians try to be philosophers, projecting themselves in national debates through books, novels and pamphlets where they discuss the philosophy of this or that, even the issue of whether God is French. French elections are a contest of ideologies. If France's political past is to be a barometer, the winner will likely be the one whose political platform and plan can more credibly respond to the key issues in the minds of the electorate.

French elections, as well as everything French, are characterized by chic, style and savoir-faire. But more than these, they are embedded in substance and an informed electorate's sense of how to best achieve the common good.

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*Roland G. Simbulan is full professor in Development Studies and Public Management at the University of the Philippines. He is a former faculty regent of the UP System.*

# Vote of confidence

### THE LONG VIEW

*Manuel L. Quezon III*

ANY VOTE FOR A CANDIDATE IS A VOTE OF confidence in two things about that candidate: the company (the party or coalition, and platforms) he decides to keep; and his individual public record and advocacy. In other words, it is a vote equally based on issues and personality. The candidate must have a stand on issues; he must be able to articulate such a stand; he must be able to grapple with the issues according to the means that his job will provide. The candidate must be a person who can bring something useful to the table and defend it, with a clear understanding of the nature of the job and the call of the times.

If the instinct of a candidate is to compromise with an administration that has not compromised (and will not, because it cannot compromise), then that candidate does not deserve further consideration. He does not see the forest from the trees, he is defeatist by nature. For this reason, I haven't considered voting for any candidate running with the administration's Team Unity.

No ifs, ands or buts about this: the administration represents the fundamental belief that neither the law nor tradition matters; that every rule exists to be broken, and no one would dare to challenge what's going on; or, even if someone does, that the partisan political objectives of the day will have been met by the time any challenge succeeds before the Supreme Court or in the court of public opinion.

Affiliation with the administration is a vote of confidence: for its attitude toward human rights (which is, that these rights are a privilege reserved only for its supporters or those who keep their opinions quietly to themselves); for the administration's way of exercising military and police might (to intimidate its critics and shrink our democratic space); for the administration's belief that party politics is always about partisan reward and punishment and never about accountability, much less statesmanship; for its contempt for the Senate and the principle of checks and balances; for its utter lack of intellectual honesty, as manifested in the words of its spokesmen; for its complete absence of self-control as shown by its leading officials; for its absolute disregard for public opinion; and for its scorn for the spirit of the law, which emanates from its cynical belief that the letter of the law is always subject to malicious manipulation.

There may be good men and women remaining in the administration, just as there are bad men and women in the ranks of the opposition. But when you consider all that the administration has done, continues to do and will do, then any affiliation with the administration can only be unworthy of support, and thus of the vote; and the only options left are those who have decided to set themselves apart from the administration, whether as mainstream opposition or as alternative to the two main political camps.

That is why the only choices, based on these principles, are the Genuine Opposition and the independents.

In choosing among them, one has to bear in mind their performance relative to the issues that arose over the past few years. Who stuck their necks out? Who defended the Senate, the principle of checks and balances? Who will be able to continue to do so, unhampered by a previous decision to reach an accommodation with an administration with a track record of willingly promising anything, but ultimately breaking every promise: because if the law is expendable, how much more the candidates who are foolish enough to think they can be independent in the Palace kennel? The dog on a leash can bark, but it's on a leash—and it can bark itself to death and be ignored by its master.

The issues of tomorrow will be these: the implementation of the antiterrorism law and its certain abuse by the administration; the inability of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs to meet their revenue targets, and the resulting need to reduce spending on social services to meet the coming political costs of "Charter change, Part II"; and the reorganization of the House of Representatives under the next speaker, Luis Villafuerte, and the hungry hordes of Kampi members (which will require the continued sale of government assets and—if this effort fails, then—the raising of taxes).

The continuing and coming issues call for senators who will fight like real men and women from Day One of the 14th Congress, not candidates who will have to grow a new backbone after crouching and groveling for the administration's campaign crumbs.

* * *

DON'T forget to write the full names, preferably in alphabetical order, of your senatorial choices, because every possible means will be found to muddle your vote or to not count it altogether. May I propose, for your consideration, the candidates for whom I will vote:

1. Aquino, Benigno III
2. Bautista, Martin
3. Cayetano, Alan
4. Escudero, Francis
5. Lacson, Panfilo
6. Legarda, Loren
7. Pangilinan, Francis
8. Paredes, Zosimo II
9. Pimentel, Aquilino III
10. Roco, Sonia
11. Sison, Adrian
12. Trillanes, Antonio IV

* * *

FOR party-list: please vote for Akapin (Alyansa ng may Kapansanang Pinoy), representing 8.5 million disabled Filipinos. Of these, only about 2 percent are registered to vote, and even fewer are able to vote because polling places are often inaccessible to the handicapped. So that our laws and government programs take the needs—and vast potential—of the handicapped into consideration, Akapin must be given the chance to represent them. Watch their video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DtBv6hAZsDg or visit their website at http://akapin2007.tripod.com/. Or text +639167700239 for information on their platform and nominees.

# Inconvenient truths

### REVEILLE

*Ramon J. Farolan*

IN 2000, VICE PRESIDENT AL GORE WAS THE DEMOCRATIC candidate for the US presidency. Although he won the popular vote, he lost by a slim margin in the Electoral College count, which was decided in a bitterly fought Florida contest. The US Supreme Court decided not to interfere in the dispute, thus handing victory to the Republican bet George W. Bush.

After retiring from active politics, Gore, once known as the "ozone man," continued his fight for the environment, traveling around the globe with his PowerPoint presentation on global warming. Last year, I was fortunate in being able to attend his talk during a short visit to Manila, which was sponsored by another Al, RCBC founder Al Yuchengco.

Gore's flip charts on climate change became the basis of the third highest grossing documentary of all time: "An Inconvenient Truth." Last February, it won an Oscar for Best Documentary and so far has brought in close to $50 million in revenues. Gore is also a nominee for this year's Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in mobilizing worldwide awareness of the dangers facing our planet because of uncontrolled greenhouse-gas emissions.

* * *

In a democracy such as ours, elections provide the only venue for us to send a clear message to those in government. It is the only time we can hold our leaders to account for past actions. This is particularly true in the senatorial contest during midterm elections. As in the United States, a victory for the administration candidates would be taken as a vote of confidence in the leadership of President Macapagal-Arroyo. A loss would signify a desire for change. The recent GOP losses in both houses of the US Congress have been interpreted as an expression of America's dissatisfaction with Bush's leadership, particularly as regards the war in Iraq. And so we see the Democrats pushing for a timetable for the withdrawal of US troops mired in the Middle East conflict.

In a way, many of us are like the French voters. Up to the last day before the balloting, many are still undecided on whom to choose as their next leader. Will it be Nicolas Sarkozy, the candidate of the ruling party or will it be the socialist, Segolene Royal who is aiming to be France's first female President?

For the past few weeks, we have been inundated with claims and counterclaims coming from both the administration and the available alternatives, which make it a bit difficult for us to decide who gets our vote. Perhaps, one way of solving this dilemma is to take a close look at the past. We Filipinos tend to have short memories and are easily influenced by current events, which completely overshadow past episodes. In many cases, there is no closure and we simply close our eyes, hoping that things will get better or the problems will disappear.

With apologies to Al Gore, in measuring the performance of our leaders, we ought to take into account some inconvenient truths.

Over the past six years of the Arroyo administration, there have been a record number of unsolved extrajudicial killings. I will not go into identifying whether the victims belonged to the Left or the Right, or what their professions were. They were murdered, and there appears to be no determined effort to get the killers. The Left claims some 900 of its followers have disappeared, victims of "Right-wing death squads" (read: military or paramilitary units). The INQUIRER puts the figure at closer to 300. Perhaps the correct number is somewhere in between. That would still be a record for the country. The military claims that many of the so-called victims were actually Communist Party members eliminated in a number of internal purges around the country.

The United Nations recently dispatched one of its representatives, Philip Alston, to look into the situation. He left with a highly critical report on the killings, which have taken place in the Philippines.

The European Commission chief envoy in the Philippines, Ambassador Alistair MacDonald, expressed shock over the human rights abuses which have become a daily occurrence, suggesting a culture of impunity in the country.

You can shrug your shoulders over the report of Alston and the remarks of Ambassador MacDonald. But this is what Justice Jose Melo, head of the Melo Commission, said when asked how many of those extrajudicial killings in the past five years were carried out by military personnel. Melo's reply: "Most of them." (Time Magazine, Feb. 12 issue)

Another inconvenient truth.

Remember Joc-Joc Bolante of fertilizer fame/notoriety? He is the alleged architect of the fertilizer scam involving more than P700 million. The funds were for our farmers, which were diverted to other persons during the 2004 election campaign. Bolante sought asylum in the United States when he was being subpoenaed by the Senate to testify on the alleged fund diversion.

A few days ago, lawyer Harry Roque of the UP College of Law, who has been trailing Bolante like a leech, informed us that the asylum bid was denied by US immigration authorities. Since Bolante appealed the decision, he now languishes in the Kenosha Detention Center in Wisconsin, which Roque describes as a jail for common criminals. If he stayed in the Philippines, Bolante would probably be roaming around a free man, considering how our justice system works.

And finally, the most inconvenient truth of all.

How can we possibly have any faith and confidence in the electoral process with a Comelec headed by Benjamin Abalos? Under his leadership, the Filipino taxpayer got stuck with close to a billion pesos worth of useless machines and software meant to computerize our elections. As some joker put it: *Kumikita lang pag may eleksyon. Kaya ang pangalan ay* Commission on Elections.

Just remember these three issues as you get into the polling booth on Monday. You'll know what to do and whom to vote for.

* * *

Many of you might already have read the wonderful speech of 16-year-old Mikaela Irene Fudolig, the summa cum laude valedictorian of the 2007 graduates of the University of the Philippines. My favorite paragraph in that speech reads: "Take not the road less traveled. Rather, make new roads, blaze new trails, find new routes to your dreams. Unlike the track beaters in campus who see where they're going, we may not know how far we can go. But if we are brave, defiant searchers of excellence, we will go far. Explore possibilities that others may get a similar chance. I have tried it myself."

The INQUIRER is a member of the
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LETTERS

# Conditions for massive cheating persist

AS AN ASSOCIATION OF EDUCATORS COMMITTED to social transformation, the Educators' Forum for Development (EFD) is deeply concerned about the integrity of the coming May 14 elections. Incidents tantamount to electoral fraud, such as "vote-buying" by government officials, even by the President herself, as well as politically motivated violence continue to occur with impunity.

It seems that the Commission on Elections is once again failing to perform its duty to investigate and prosecute violations of election laws. With the allegations of massive cheating in the 2004 presidential election still unresolved, the Comelec's current inaction puts in doubt the possibility of clean and honest elections. As the election watchdog Kontra Daya warned, the conditions for extensive electoral fraud persist.

The prevailing atmosphere of impunity, brought about by the spate of unresolved extrajudicial killings, also sets the tone for a bloody election. We fear for the safety of voters, especially that of our co-educators who are tasked to serve in the polls. The new election law, Republic Act 9369, has added custodial duties to teachers serving as chairpersons of the Board of Election Inspectors, which not only places an added burden on their shoulders, but also puts them in greater risk.

Thus, we challenge the Comelec to act now to ensure the credibility of the coming elections and the security of teachers and polling places. We also call on the Filipino people to not only vote responsibly, but also to be vigilant against fraud and violence. We should expose any election offense and malpractice; and we should be on guard against harassment and other abuses on election day and beyond.

**—JENNIFER DEL ROSARIO-MALONZO,**
**general secretary,**
**Educators' Forum for Development,**
**IBON Center, 114 Timog Avenue, QC**

# P1-B hunger fund an empty PR stunt

THE PROBLEM OF FEEDING THE NATION IS bearing down on Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The report that persistent hunger stalks some 25 million poor Filipinos every day has prompted Ms Arroyo to order the review of all anti-poverty programs and the release of P1 billion for emergency hunger intervention.

The release of the P1-billion fund may sound nice but we doubt if it can lick hunger. Chances are this is nothing but a public relations stunt. As in the past, the Arroyo administration's program does not go beyond rice distribution and rolling stores. It does not address the more fundamental problems that lead to hunger.

It is even more doubtful if the fund will directly benefit starving Filipinos. As the most corrupt country in Asia, such huge funds could easily be another source of corruption, especially with the elections just around the corner and many politicians in dire need of campaign money.

Arresting hunger must begin by addressing its source—poverty. Toward this, the government must secure the livelihood of the country's majority: peasantry and workers.

A genuine comprehensive agrarian reform that will distribute an economically viable size of land must be a priority.

An industrialization program that will respond to the country's needs and address the growing number of unemployment should be set up.

Lastly, the government must envision a national development program that gives priority to food and other domestic needs.

**—AYA V. JALLORINA,**
**advocacy campaigner,**
**Integrated Rural Development Foundation (IRDF)/Task Force Food Sovereignty (TFFS),**
**87 Malakas St., Diliman, Quezon City**

# Why aren't we angered by political dynasties?

WE LOVE TO SAY THAT OURS IS A DEMOCRATIC country, but we've been shamelessly acting as though this is a monarchic state where power is transferred from the incumbents to their immediate family members as if it were an inheritance. We're seeing it again in this year's elections and we ought to be ashamed of ourselves for having congressional, senatorial, gubernatorial and mayoral candidates coming from the same families.

I refuse to believe that as a nation of more than 80 million souls, our leaders and candidates can come from only a very few families. Why aren't we angered by this? But the worst thing is, these candidates actually win because they rely on the power of the "purple triumvirate" and "Ninoy Aquino," the kind of bills which hungry Filipinos wouldn't mind getting their hands on.

People should also realize that show-biz celebrities agree to support and campaign for a candidate because they are paid more than generous sums of money to do so, the same way they are paid when they are endorsing a product on TV.

**—FRANKI JAVIER,**
**franzijavier@yahoo.**

# No campaign funds for Joker from GMA

I HASTEN, IN THE MIDST OF THE CAMPAIGN, to write this letter because I am offended by the news report titled, "Kampi bankrolls Joker bid to tune of P27M." (INQUIRER, 4/30/07)

The headline and the lead paragraph reek with unmitigated malice—that Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is bankrolling my TV ads. My dealings were with Louie Villafuerte, an old Naga City friend, not with GMA. Lost was the enclosed letter of Rossana Trinidad, released to the press simply to correct the erroneous report that I had spent P94 million for my TV ads.

I know enough about the workings of some members of the press. As a young lawyer before martial law, I was the lawyer of the Manila Times, Philippines Free Press, MOPC, NPC, PPI and the Press Foundation of Asia. This is how and why in the first instance, I challenged martial law.

If some senior staff members of the INQUIRER would like to damage my campaign with malicious slant, so be it.

**—SEN. JOKER P. ARROYO**

*The Inquirer story did not say that President Macapagal-Arroyo was bankrolling Sen. Joker Arroyo's campaign. The story said it was Ms Arroyo's Kampi Party that did it.*—Ed.

*IF you have any complaints, grievances or suggestions about the treatment of news and photos by the Inquirer, you may write to the Readers' Advocate, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue, corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, City of Makati or send a fax to Nos. 897-4793, 897-4794, or e-mail readersadvocate@ inquirer.com.ph*

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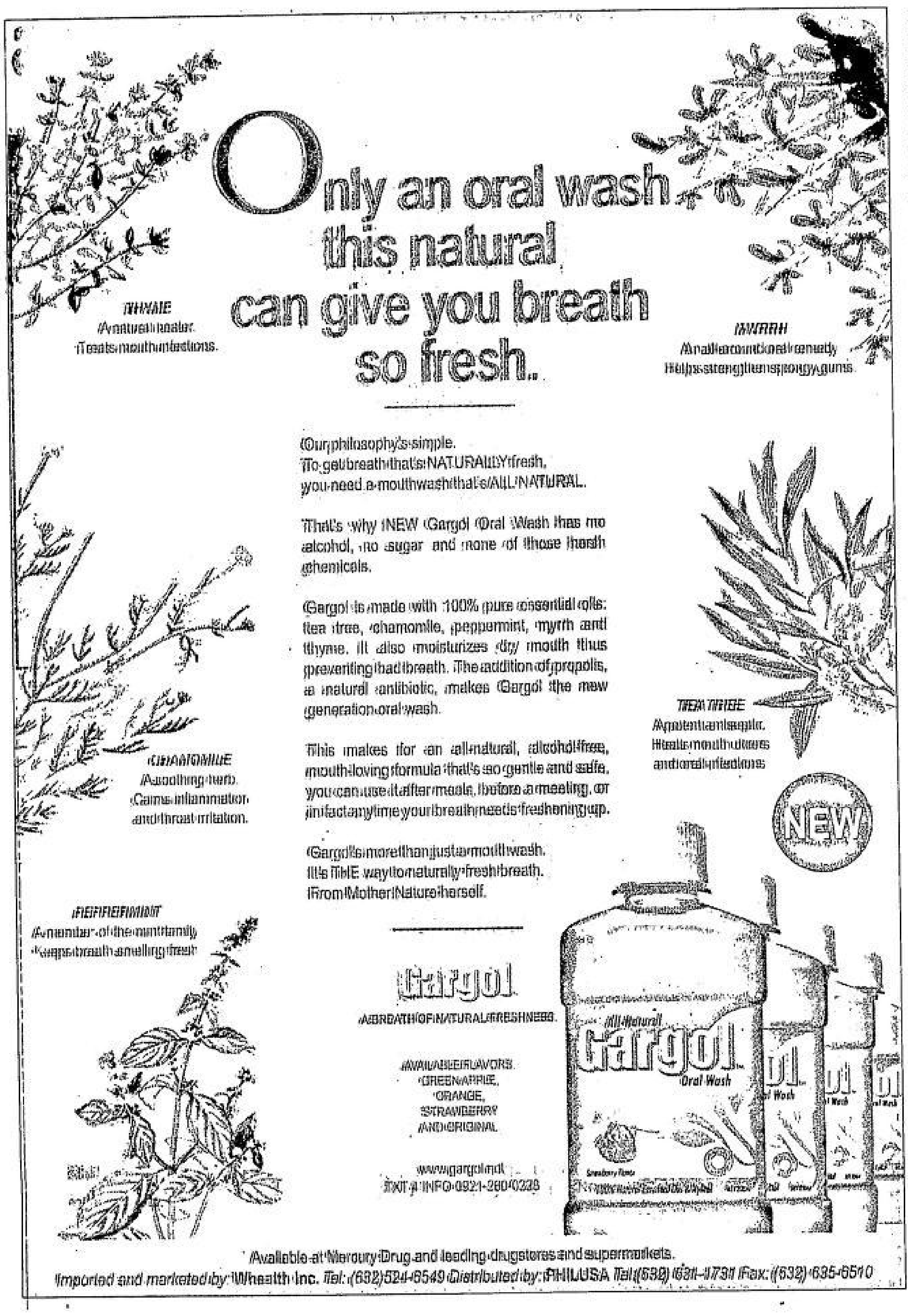
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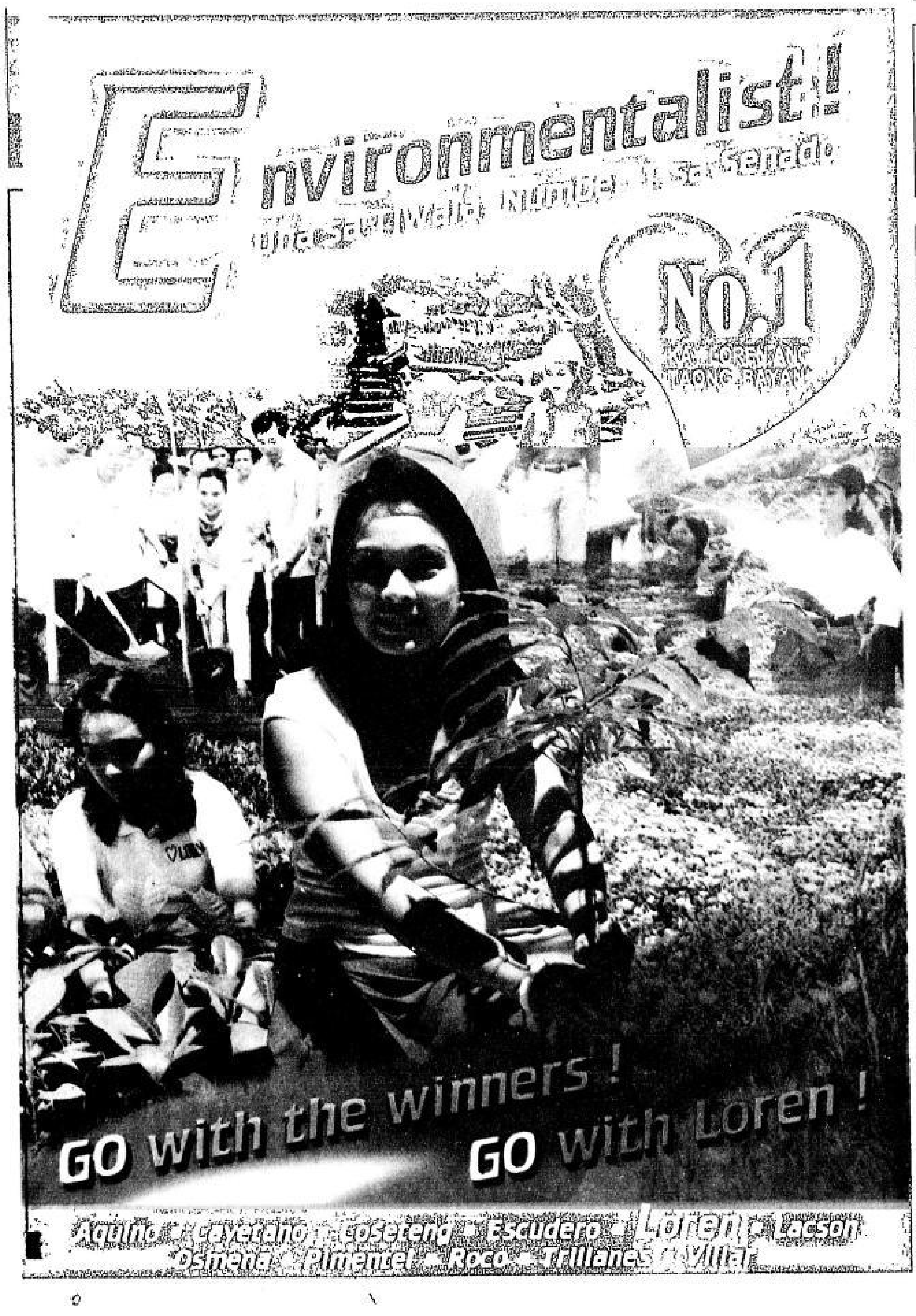
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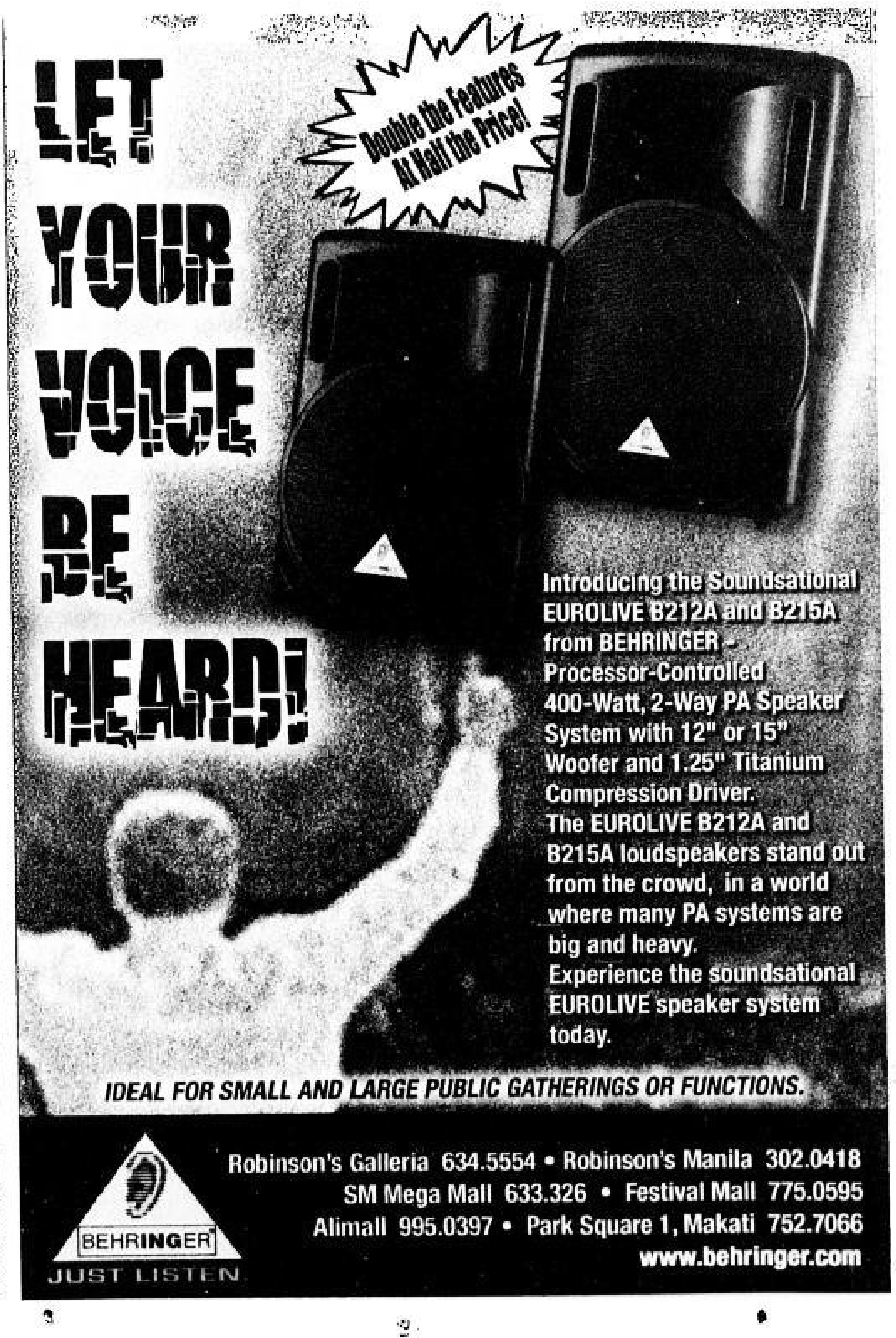
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# 2 cops repulse attack by 50 NPA rebels

## Guerrillas suffered 3 casualties, say police

**By Joey A. Gabieta and Carla Gomez**
*Inquirer Visayas*

TACLOBAN CITY—AT LEAST 50 NEW PEOPLE'S Army members raided the police compound of Paranas town in Samar Saturday, resulting in the deaths of three rebels and the wounding of the town police chief.

Lt. Col. Vincent Lacderas, commanding chief of the 43rd Infantry Battalion, said 20 of the rebels stormed the adjoining one-story buildings at the police compound at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Other rebels, who were in three L-300 vans, served as lookouts.

PO1 Leandro Abaigar, who was manning the main police station, tried to repulse them with his M-16 rifle. He ran out of bullets and pretended to be dead later, Lacderas said in a phone interview.

The officer-on-duty, however, was able to kill three of the NPA members, Lacderas said.

### Gallant stand

The other rebels who stormed the adjoining building were engaged in a gunfight by the police chief, Senior Insp. Emmanuel Arteche, who was at his office.

Arteche was wounded in the right arm but was able to repulse his attackers, said Lacderas.

As Abaigar played dead, the rebels ransacked the armory at the main police building and took three M-16 rifles, including the service firearm of Abaigar.

The two other firearms belonged to SPO3 Servando Arellano and SPO1 Jessico Fabregas, who were on duty at that time but had gone out for dinner, said Lacderas.

The raid lasted about 30 minutes. The guerrillas took the bodies of their comrades as they escaped, Lacderas said.

Lacderas said teams from the 62nd Infantry Battalion, under Lt. Col. Jonathan Ponce, and the Samar police headquarters, under Senior Supt. Asdali Abah, were now in Paranas to pursue the rebels.

Abah could not be contacted on his mobile phone. The police station of Paranas itself has no telephone connections.

Ponce, in a mobile phone interview, said he and his men immediately proceeded to Paranas, 28 kilometers from the 62nd IB base in Calbiga town, when he learned that the town police was under attack.

### Encounter

He said some of his men caught up with a group of rebels in Barangay Buray, 8 km from the police station.

He said his men engaged the retreating NPA rebels in a gunfight but the rebels disappeared into the dark.

No casualties were reported by either side, he said.

"Our pursuit operation is ongoing," Ponce said.

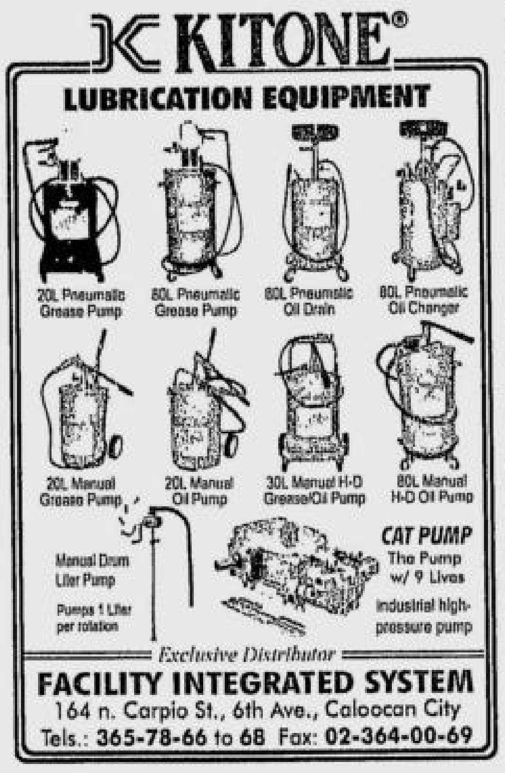
In Isabela, Negros Occidental, three NPA guerrillas were killed in a clash with soldiers.

The soldiers were in pursuit of the rebels following complaints of candidates that they were collecting "permit-to-campaign fees" from them, according to Lt. Col. Jess Manangquil, 11th Infantry Battalion commander.

Manangquil said the encounter, which took place in Sitio Malipayon, Barangay Sibucawan, Isabela, lasted for almost three hours.

The estimated 40 rebels, led by a certain Magno Flores, withdrew, leaving behind the bodies of their three slain comrades and two backpacks containing rebel documents and personal belongings, he said.

The bodies were turned over by the 11th IB to the Isabela police for identification by their families, Manangquil said.



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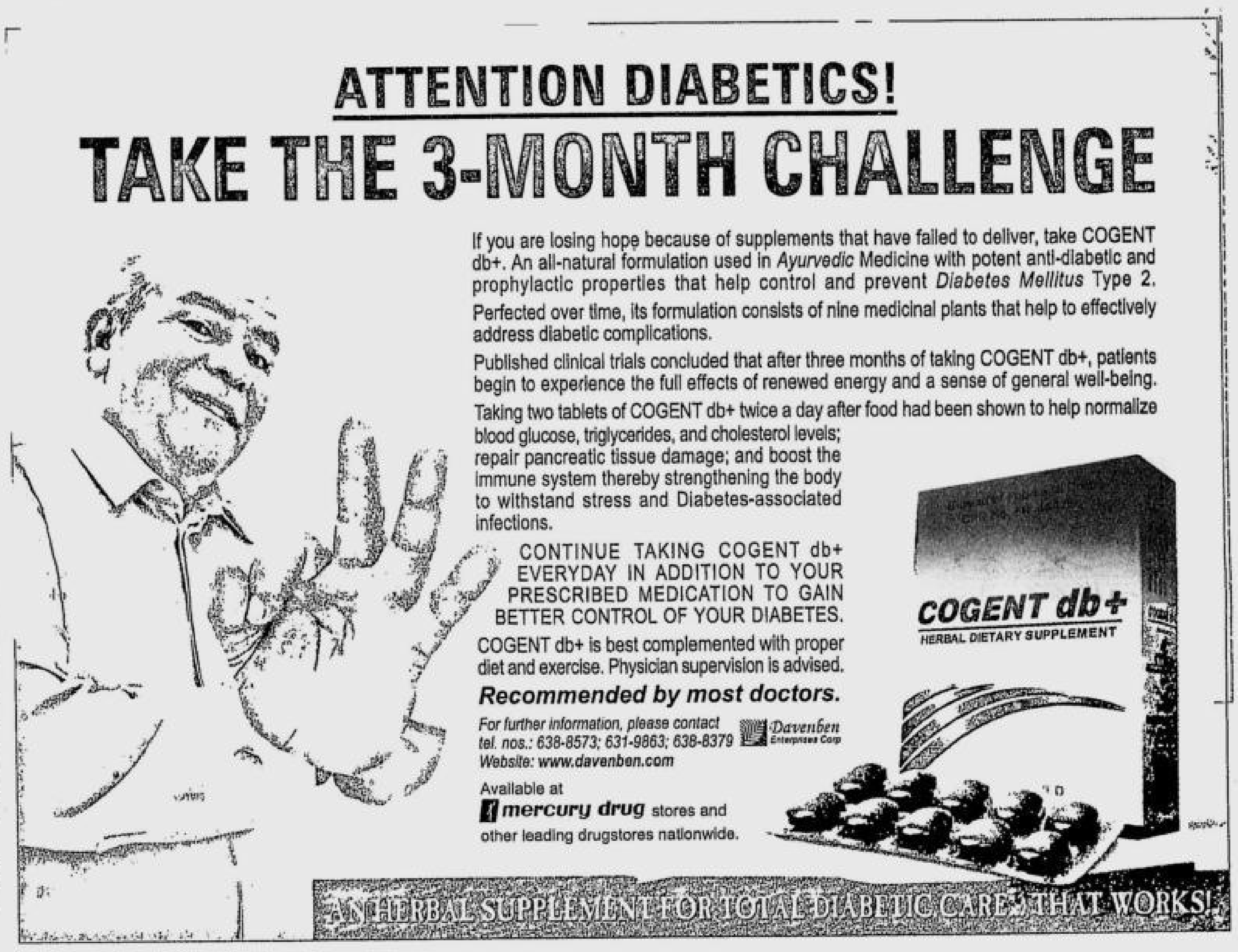

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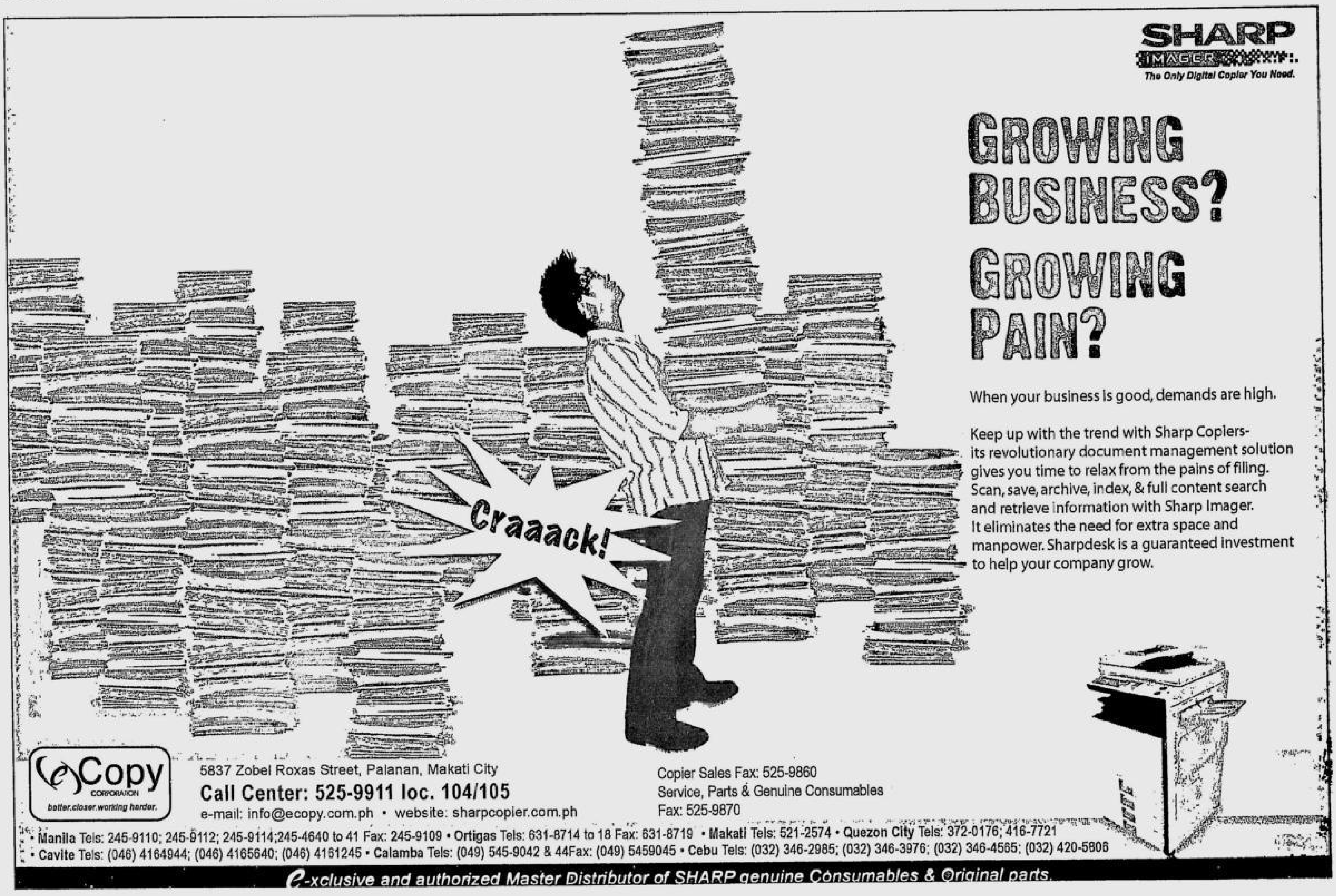

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Theme:
**AMA Graduates:**
**Soaring to New Heights, Discovering New Frontiers**

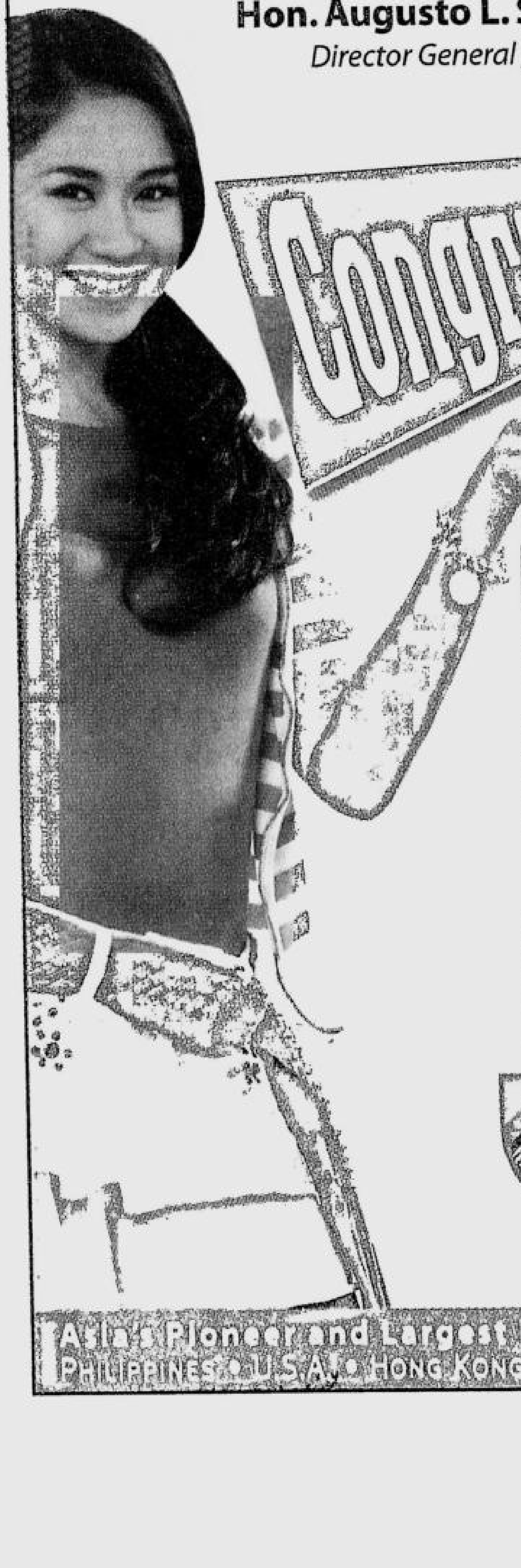
Graduation Rites:
**May 7, 2007 • PICC Plenary Hall**

12:00 noon Commencement Speaker:
**Hon. Manuel B. Villar**
*Senate President, Republic of the Philippines*

4:00 p.m. Commencement Speaker:
**Hon. Edgardo J. Angara**
*Senator, Republic of the Philippines*

Inspirational Message:
**Hon. Augusto L. Syjuco, Jr.**
*Director General, TESDA*

Inspirational Message:
**Hon. Nona S. Ricafort, Ph. D.**
*Commisioner, Commission on Higher Education (CHED)*



Gloria Arroyo
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GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
*President, Republic of the Philippines*

Warmest greetings and congratulations to the 2007 graduates of the AMA Computer University and Colleges. I commend your institution's strong commitment to produce globally competitive professionals, making AMA one of the leading choices for personal and professional growth and learning in the new millennium. I urge you, AMA graduates to be the country's partners in national development, with the courage to act and the humility to accept obstacles. As future leaders, you should explore and expand the opportunities that await you and transform these into positive outcomes that will contribute to the betterment of our society. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR
*Senate President, Republic of the Philippines*

My warmest congratulations and felicitations to all the graduates, faculty members and management of AMA Computer University. With the knowledge and skills you have learned, strive to reach your goals, achieve your dreams and contribute to the welfare of your fellowmen. It will take hard work and perseverance---sipag at tiyaga---but you will reap your just rewards in due time. I wish you all success and Godspeed always! Mabuhay kayong lahat!

HON. EDGARDO J. ANGARA
*Senator, Republic of the Philippines*

I congratulate this year's graduates of AMA Computer University. I believe that Filipinos generally recognize the value of education as a tool to achieve success here and abroad. To the graduates, remain fervent in pursuing your dreams. To the parents, continue to assist the government in improving the learning conditions of our poor and needy youth. To the teachers, continue to mold future leaders and responsible citizens of this country. Again, congratulations! Mabuhay kayong lahat!

AMB. AMABLE R. AGUILUZ V, DBA
*Chairman Emeritus, AMA Education System*

Congratulations to the graduates of Class 2007! We have instilled in you a culture of excellence. Continue your quest for excellence as you develop yourselves and the people and communities around you...as you meet the challenges of the 21st century...as you understand, appreciate, and even celebrate human diversity...as you participate in this ever-changing, demanding society. While you are an integral part of a larger set of systems, learn to break out of the limiting boundaries and discover the new frontiers out there. Best wishes to all of you and your families.

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# 8 armed groups of Masbate pols under surveillance

**By Bobby Q. Labalan**
*Inquirer Southern Luzon*

MASBATE CITY—AT LEAST EIGHT private armies in the employ of local politicians have been placed under close surveillance by authorities as May 14, Election Day, nears, a police official said.

Senior Supt. Edgar Layon, provincial police director, said the private groups had high-powered firearms like M-60 machine guns and are highly mobile.

Police have already registered 11 election-related violent incidents that resulted in the death of six supporters of various candidates and injuries to 16 others.

The figures are, however, lower than the number of deaths and injured in the 2004 elections. Layon said lawmen were not being complacent as violence could erupt anytime.

The police official said his office continued to coordinate with the Philippine Army to capture the members of the armed groups, including those of the communist New People's Army.

Layon refused to identify the politicians who were maintaining the armed groups, except to say that they were all still active.

Lawyer Romeo Fortez, the new election supervisor of the province, denied reports that Masbate had already been placed under the control of the Commission on Elections.

Fortez said the agency needed an en banc resolution to place a certain area under Comelec control. The commission has not been done so in the case of Masbate, he said.

Although he said he favored such a move, it would still depend on the decision of the Comelec en banc.

Layon said placing Masbate under Comelec control would allow the police and the Comelec to use the logistics of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which his office was lacking.

The provincial police office receives a monthly budget of only P61,000 for all its requirements, he said.

Without the Comelec order, he said the AFP would just be a support agency and its assets could not be tapped for election-related activities.

Masbate Bishop Joel Bailon said the Church had prepared a new petition requesting Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. to put the province under Comelec control.

Such an action would help prevent bloodshed during the entire election period, Bailon said.

The bishop earlier already appealed to Abalos in a previous letter, but the Comelec chair had not responded.

Bailon said the new petition was signed by Fortez, Layon, Lt. Col. Claudio Yucot, the Army commander in charge of Masbate, and officials of the Department of Education.

So far, only Gov. Antonio Kho has expressed opposition to the move.

Bailon said that despite the history of violent elections in the province, he still believed that local politicians were capable of repudiating the politics of guns, goons and gold.

# Bicol power outages to last until May 12

LEGAZPI CITY—IT WILL TAKE up to May 12, or two days before the elections, for the power situation to become normal in Bicol, a top official of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) said Saturday.

Guillermo Redoblado, Transco vice president for Luzon operations and maintenance, said the daily power outages were caused by the toppling of six Transco towers on May 1 and 2.

He noted "metal fatigue" in one of the towers that had been damaged by the series of strong typhoons that hit the region last year.

It created a domino effect that toppled other towers.

Cost of damage has been pegged at P20 million.

Bicol is now isolated from the national grid and has been forced to generate its own power through its two power plants—the Tiwi Geothermal Plant and the Bacon-Manito power plant.

However, total power demand in Bicol is 150 megawatts and the two plants only produce around 90 megawatts, so "load dropping" has to be done in various areas in Bicol every two hours, thus the power outages.

Redoblado said the temporary solution was for the company to implement a bypass plan by using the "healthy" portions of the Gumaca-Labo line to provide Tayabas a new link to Naga.

It will take until May 13 to implement the plan but, he said, President Macapagal-Arroyo requested that the power supply be normalized on May 12.

*Ephraim Aguilar, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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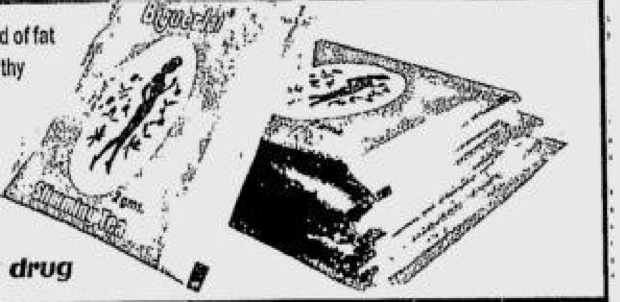

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## 2 killed in Samar NPA attack

TACLOBAN CITY—A barangay leader from a remote town in Eastern Samar died Friday after he was caught in the crossfire in a clash between communist guerrillas and a soldier who also died in the gunfight.

SPO2 Donald Mengote, officer in charge of the Jipapad town police, identified the victims as Moises Legarse, village chair of Barangay 2, and Sgt. Jimmy Apelado, who was identified to be an intelligence agent of the 14th Infantry Battalion based in the nearby town of Oras.

Mengote said the attack took place at 9:45 p.m. in Barangay 2 with the victims standing 50 meters from each other.

*Joey Gabieta, Inquirer Visayas*

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3. Gave school bags and other related supplies to students.
4. Public school teachers were given incentive pay.
5. No school premises were sold. Instead, the school site of Plaridel Elem. School and A. Lacson Elem. School were bought.
6. Founded the Antonio J. Villegas Vocational School at Bangkusay, Tondo.
7. 163 school buildings and 8 libraries were constructed, repaired or improved.
8. Bought 40 computer sets and 500 Panasonic TV for public schools so as to meet the modern trend.

HEALTH
1. Constructed or renovated the Ospital ng Maynila, Ospital ng Sampaloc, Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital, and Tondo General Hospital.
2. Free medicine for indigent patients at all public hospitals.
3. Repaired and improved all health centers and lying-in clinics.
4. "Homeward Haven" was created at Ospital ng Maynila for AIDS patients.
5. Rehabilitation center for drug dependents was put up.
7. Public markets were maintained to be clean and free from foul odor at all times.
8. Improved and rehabilitated the North Cemetery.
9. Extended free funeral and interment services.
10. Crematoriums were extended for free.

PEACE AND ORDER
1. Initiated the shame campaign against drug pushers which practically made Manila drug free then.
2. Closed massage clinics, night clubs, and bars involved in prostitution, forcing these to move out of Manila.
3. Statistics on criminal cases dramatically dropped due to intensified police drive.
4. Deserving policemen were given incentive pay.
5. Gave 60 units of Toyota cars to Mobile Section of Manila Police.
6. Erring and abusive policemen were reprimanded and penalized by the PLEB.
7. Creation of Junior Police Force to assist the policemen in maintaining peace and order.
8. The Manila Traffic and Parking Bureau was formed to decongest traffic.
9. Closure of illegal money changers to bring down the cost of the US dollar.

FINANCE
1. No loan was incurred except for the loan contracted for the purchase of the lot and PNB building used by the City College of Manila.
2. Taxes/fees were never increased during his six year term.
3. Updated payment of water bill, electric charges, and GSIS premium to enable employees to obtain loan and other benefits.
4. Salaries of city employees were increased on several occasions.
5. Granted incentive pay to city employees.
6. All Barangays were allocated on a quarterly basis their corresponding share from real estate taxes including IRA from the national government.
7. The City Finance was managed on a balanced budget system.

CLEAN AND GREEN
1. 90,000 trees were planted in the City of Manila
2. Garbage collection on a daily basis were efficiently implemented.
3. Cost of garbage collection was significantly reduced.
4. Modern dump trucks, pay loaders, backhoes, vac-alls and other equipment were purchased.
5. Drainages were cleaned and improved regularly.

INFRASTRUCTURE
1. Constructed the Bonifacio Shrine, Forest Park, Museo Ng Maynila, Museong Pambata, Liwasang Bonifacio Multi-colored fountain, Carriedo Fountain, etc.
2. Public markets and talipapas were repaired and renovated.
3. Concreting of almost 70% of both main thoroughfares and secondary roads in Manila.
4. Various offices within the Manila City Hall were repaired and renovated.
5. To save on cost, most projects were undertaken by the City Engineering.

OTHER SERVICES
1. Offered livelihood programs and extended loans.
2. Free legal services to indigent litigants.
3. Monthly rental of Harrison Plaza was increased from P48,000 to P480,000.
4. Prices of commodities were closely monitored to avoid overpricing.
5. More than 4,000 certificates of award were granted to landless Manileños.
6. Public faucets were set up in 33 barangays.
7. Street lights were placed in 65 barangays.
8. The first local gov't. official to implement the benefits under the Senior Citizens Act.

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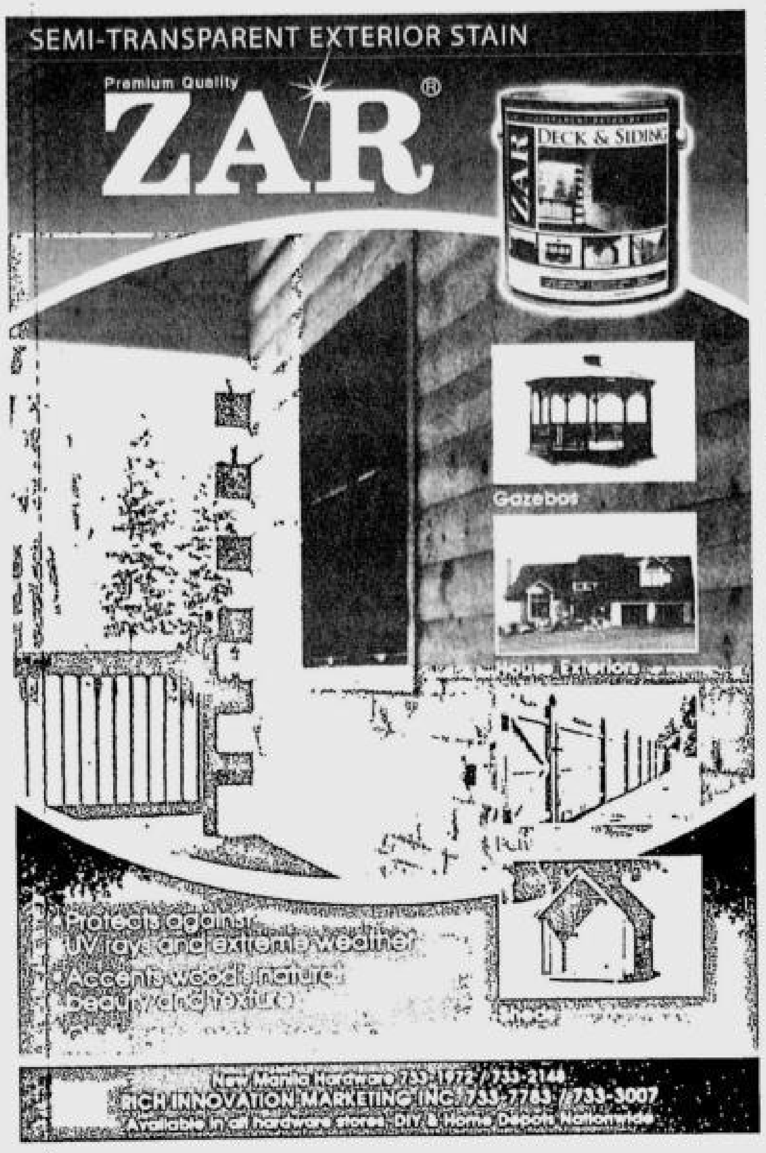

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# Red tape, lack of access to lands cited key reasons for SCTEx delay

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE Japanese contractor building the 50-km portion of the 94-km Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway (SCTEx) has re-filed its notice of claim for time extension to finish the road, citing the government's delayed approval of documents needed in the project.

The Kajima Corp., Obayashi Corp., JFE Engineering Corp. and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. (KOJM) Joint Venture has submitted the notice on May 4 to Tsunemi Nagata, manager of the project's three international consulting firms.

KOJM's latest notice came a month since it made the same request to the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA), the project's proponent, and 14 days after top Cabinet officials intervened to stop the 2,865 days of delay incurred on the Subic-Clark and Clark-Tarlac sections of the four-lane toll road.

Cutting through the western mountainous boundary of Central Luzon, the road links the Subic and Clark freeports, as well as the Luisita Industrial Park, through a P21-billion loan from the Japanese government.

Based on the contracts, the first section of the SCTEx should be completed on Nov. 17 and the second, on Aug. 18.

KOJM manager Masato Otsubo on Sunday said Nagata had not yet approved the request.

"I believe we are entitled to claim for time extension and related costs because [the reasons] are beyond our control," Otsubo said.

He declined to state the amount of money KOJM was claiming from the BCDA for the delay, saying such information was subject to the agency's approval.

The BCDA's only counterpart in the project was the road's right-of-way (ROW) for which it had spent P500 million to buy more than 1,200 lots.

Otsubo's letter, which the INQUIRER obtained from another source, cited these reasons for the delay: ROW problems, unforeseen ground condition, tree cutting permits, value-added tax payment schemes, delayed approval of request for proposals and variation orders, and delays "caused by authorities (referring to the provincial government of Bataan)."

Most of these factors were the same bases cited by the Hazama-Taisei-Nippon Steel (HTN) Joint Venture when it gave a notice for deadline extension on March 29.

For KOJM's claim, Otsubo furnished Nagata a copy of a BCDA letter giving KOJM "partial access to the sites."

The BCDA, he said, did not give access to "all parts" on April 22, 2005, as stated in the contract.

KOJM, Otsubo said, was "forced to pay landowners" to be able to get access to the site.

He said the joint venture filed its first notice for extension as early as Sept. 28, 2005, or five months since work began, because of ROW-related problems.

"Unresolved ROW issues to date" caused "work interruptions and delays in some locations," he said. Otsubo gave Nagata the list of sites where those were encountered.

Otsubo said construction work at the Tipo junction was delayed because the BCDA turned over the site only on Aug. 1, 2006, or a year after the scheduled turnover.

While the Department of Environment and Natural Resources gave the BCDA a permit to work in the forested areas of the Roosevelt Park in Bataan, Otsubo noted that the BCDA approved the additional work order only on Jan. 18, 2006.

Work at the Saguing area was delayed when the project engineer did not submit the complete design there. It received the revised design on April 30, or after four months since making the request. That, however, has still to be approved by the BCDA. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

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# Pilgrims end 10-day campaign for peace

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
*Inquirer Visayas*

ILOILO CITY—A group of pastors, students, social workers and nongovernment organization members took to the streets in the hope of delivering a message across despite their small number: Stop the bloodshed.

At least 30 of them ended their "Pilgrimage for Peace" to call and pray for an end to violence and for peaceful elections.

Initiated by the Central Philippine University (CPU), Convention Baptist Ministers Association (CBMA) and the Iloilo Coalition of Non-Government Organizations and People's Organizations (Icon), the pilgrimage is the second to be held after the groups initiated it in 2004 to dramatize their call for clean, honest and peaceful elections.

The pilgrimage, which started on April 23 and ended on May 2, covered Panay, Guimaras and Negros. It made short stopovers in every town to distribute voter's education materials and pray for peace.

Major stopovers were held at the Capiz Evangelical Church in Roxas City and Lifeline Center in the capital town of Kalibo in Aklan. Prayer rallies and voters' education were also held in Canlaon Evangelical Church, Canlaon City, and Fortress College in Kabankalan City in Negros Occidental.

"We would like to tell and remind the people, especially the youth that we should not be resigned to how elections in our country are," said Rev. Edwin Lariza, pilgrimage chair.

Lariza raised concern about the rising number of fatalities and violent election-related incidents more than a week before the elections. "This (election) may turn out to be worse than in 2004."

"The spate of killings and the seemingly endless political and ideological squabbling in the country have been alarming," they said in a statement.

**CLOSER LOOK** LITO TECSON/CEBU DAILY NEWS

**A boy tries to take a closer look at the gun of a policeman who keeps watch over an election campaign rally at the Madridejos Sports Complex on Bantayan Island. The area was placed by the Commission on Elections under its control following clashes between rival politicians.**

# Debates for Baguio bets set by lawyers, Church

BAGUIO CITY—LEADERS OF religious organizations and officials of local law schools have organized a debate so voters would learn how the city's nine mayoral and four congressional candidates would address issues that may impact on the city.

"This debate would be the voters' chance to see how candidates would address the concerns of Baguio. They can vote not on the basis of personality but on the basis of issues and [their programs'] merits," said lawyer Alex Bangsoy, one of the organizers.

Candidates seeking the city's lone congressional district seat would debate on seven issues that organizers have prepared today. Mayoral candidates, on the other hand, would face each other in a debate scheduled tomorrow.

Among the issues they would address were concerns over tourism and education, the establishment of a casino in the city, the development of the public market, land use and squatting, water supply, privatization of the city's parking system, peace and order, and gambling.

Lawyer Ceasar Oracion, dean of the College of Law of the Saint Louis University (SLU), said these issues were Baguio's "priority issues."

Bangsoy said it would be interesting to learn if the candidates "have a vision for the improvement of Baguio," a city suffering from overpopulation and scarce resources.

Bangsoy said these issues were raised in past elections but they still exist because local officials have failed to address these after the elections.

For other groups, the degradation of the quality of Baguio's environment is a pressing concern.

Last month, mayoral and congressional candidates presented their platforms on how to solve the city's environmental problems in a forum.

Sr. Teresa Dagdag, director of the Maryknoll Ecological Sanctuary, said they would form a task force to ensure that platforms presented by a winning candidate would be implemented.

Lourdes Sison, a staff member of the Cordillera Green Network, said the city's biggest problems are overpopulation, sanitation, congestion, air pollution, disintegrating watershed and solid waste management.

"The local government may have good intentions in saving the environment but there is still lack of support from [various] government [agencies] and lack of education among the people," said Sison.

Fr. Andres Cosalan said the debate was aimed at upgrading the quality of the campaign and at helping voters understand issues that are important to them.

"The idea of the debate is good and we can bring it up to a higher level," said lawyer Reynaldo Agranzamendez. *Desiree Caluza, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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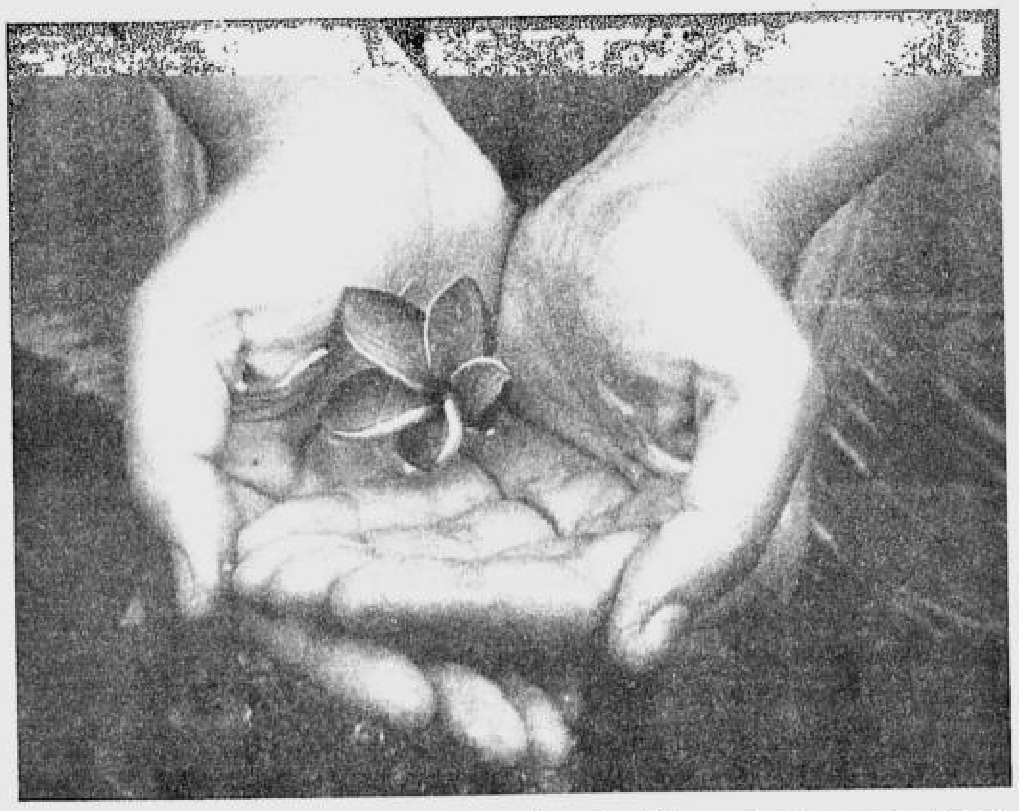
## Keeping the Philippines Bird Flu-Free: It's in our Hands

That's the good news. And it's well worth repeating: The Philippines, as you read this, is bird flu-free. But that's a headline that can change quicker than you can fry an egg if we aren't careful.



Birds are very much a part of our daily lives. From the pigeons we take care of to the chicken in rotisseries to the streetside grills peddling chicken feet and isaw. To our kitchens where tinola innocently simmers. To fast food chains overflowing with the latest crispy and juicy offerings and bus vendors pitching quail eggs. To the fertilizer makers and cockfighting aficionados. We're surrounded by birds and their byproducts, and it's all well and good for now.

But should bird flu make it to our shores, we'll be in for some difficult times.

Which is why numerous organizations have banded together to stop bird flu from entering the country, each in their own way. Some try spreading information. Some try to lobby for additional laws against the smuggling of wild birds. Others look for better enforcement of existing regulations.

But addressing the bird flu scare isn't a top secret, for-experts-only thing. It needs every one of us to pitch in. And we're not talking about massive contributions of time and money. Far from it.

We're talking about practicing Iwas Bird Flu habits. And it all begins with clean hands. The thorough and regular washing of hands will do more for arresting the spread of any virus than you may realize. It's also helpful to use at least 70% isopropyl alcohol should soap and water be unavailable for whatever reason.

Proper cough habits are important too. Cover your nose and mouth with tissue or a handkerchief every time you sneeze, cough or blow your nose. If you don't have tissue, cough into your sleeve. And while few of us encounter live birds on a usual basis, common sense also demands we keep away from sick or dying birds.

(For more information on specific signs of bird flu, please visit www.iwasbirdflu.com).

Arming ourselves with these three deceptively simple steps is the best defense we have against the avian influenza that is sweeping through most of Asia and the rest of the world.

Of course, there are other things concerned individuals can do, like reporting cases of chickens, ducks or birds inexplicably dying in large numbers to your local Veterinary, Agricultural or Health Officer or Barangay Captain, or the bird flu hotline. You can continue enjoying your favorite poultry dishes, just make sure all chickens and eggs are thoroughly cleaned and cooked. Bring your tinola to a boil, grill or fry chicken till its juices are clear, not pink. Make sure eggs and balut are fully cooked, not *malasado*.

But it all begins with keeping our hands clean, and keeping them to ourselves.

From the People of Japan
NAITF National Avian Influenza Task Force
Department of Agriculture
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**IWAS BIRD FLU**

### Signs of Bird Flu in Birds

- Sudden death without clinical signs
- Lack of energy and appetite
- Decreased egg production
- Soft shelled or misshapen eggs
- Swelling of the head, eyelids, comb, wattles and hocks
- Purpled discoloration of the wattles, combs and legs
- Nasal discharge
- Coughing, sneezing
- Incoordination
- Diarrhea

### Tips on how to protect yourself from Bird Flu

- **Practice proper hygiene.**
  Practice proper hand-washing before and after handling poultry.
- **Protect the children.**
  Do not allow children to play with birds.
- **Protect yourself and your workers.**
  Wear proper protective clothing and vaccinate workers and handlers when possible.
- **Protect your neighbors.**
  Report cases of sick, dying, or dead birds to the bird flu hotline or to your local veterinary clinic.

**Call the Bird Flu Hotline:**
**925-9999**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

**THE SENATORIAL** bet and her Nanay Fely water the plants together.

# Loren finds comfort …

From page A1

Taking care of Legarda—and now, also her two sons—has become Nanay Fely's way of life and full time profession.

Nanay Fely said that if marriage was for companionship and procreation, then she had achieved this by her devoted service to the Legarda clan.

"They are my children," Nanay Fely said in Filipino, referring to Legarda and Legarda's children, Lanz and Lean.

The *yaya* from Paoay, Ilocos Norte, is a "jet-setter." Unlike ordinary nannies, she has traveled to many countries with the Legarda family.

"A trip anywhere, here or abroad, without her is unthinkable," Legarda said. "She's a member of the family and we don't leave any member of the family behind when we embark on a long trip."

## Debt of gratitude

"She is really spoiled. The way she pampered me when I was young, I'm reciprocating it in her old age."

Nanay Fely herself has lost count of the number of her overseas trips.

"I can no longer count how many times we have been abroad," she said. "It is as if we have never been away from each other."

She started as a househelp in Legarda's grandparents' home in 1957. She began working with Legarda's parents when they got married in 1959 and stayed with them at University Hills near the boundary of Caloocan City and Malabon, then a quiet town in Rizal province.

## The child Loren

When Legarda was born in 1960, Nanay Fely became an instant *yaya* who would pinch-hit for Bessie, Legarda's mother, whenever the latter was not around.

"I was not born to a rich family," Legarda said. "We're a middle-class family. My mother was a bank secretary while my father was a car salesman. My mother could not have survived without Nanay Fely. So it was a complimentary kind of motherhood."

At the crack of dawn, Nanay Fely would bring the young Legarda to kindergarten class at the Assumption, which was then in the heart of Manila.

## An 'electrician,' too

Bessie saw to it that Legarda had all she needed for the day, while Nanay Fely would double-check everything.

According to Legarda, her Nanay Fely is multitalented: She is a dressmaker who loved to embroider dresses and ribbons for Legarda when she was a kid, and she is an "electrician," too, around the house.

Legarda swears that the two most important women in her life never competed for her love and attention.

"Mama and Nanay Fely both made the transition from home to school less traumatic for me. At first, I was frightened by the prospect of having to leave home for some unfamiliar, distant place called 'school.' They were always there for me," Legarda said.

Parting with Legarda in school, Nanay Fely recalled, was always punctuated by crying, by both of them.

## Losing Bessie

"If it were only possible, I would have gone with Loren into her classroom every day," Nanay Fely said. "But the sisters of the Assumption were very strict. After a few days, we could no longer accompany the children inside the classroom, no matter how loud the children cried."

As a child, Legarda loved storytelling sessions with her *yaya*, but with her as the storyteller and her *yaya* as her audience.

Nanay Fely's importance in their household became more acute when Bessie died of breast cancer in 1996.

## One-woman phone brigade

Today, Nanay Fely is the house "*mayordoma*," or the second-in-command, as far as the management of the household is concerned. She no longer does most of the chores that she used to do when she was much younger.

When the going is not so tough, she keeps herself occupied with cross-stitching or would launch a phone brigade for Legarda and help in her campaign, even from home.

"In 2001, Nanay Fely campaigned with me because my two kids were also with me. But now that she is old, phone brigade *na lang siya*," Legarda said.

"She would keep calling her relatives to check if my campaign posters are properly posted in Ilocos Norte."

## Nanay waits at home

Being an Ilocano, Nanay Fely knows how to handle her finances and earnings.

Legarda said that Nanay Fely took care of the education of her nephews and nieces, producing a nurse, an engineer and an overseas worker in Canada.

"Whatever she gets is for her own family. I can't imagine life without her," Legarda said.

When grief struck Legarda following her defeat in the 2004 vice presidential election, it was Nanay Fely who was there to console her.

"*Tahan na, anak, magiging matagumpay ka, makikita mo,* (Stop crying, my child. Victory will be yours, you'll see)," Nanay Fely used to tell her.

This Mother's Day, Legarda still misses Bessie but she finds comfort in the thought that Nanay Fely is home waiting for her to return from her gruelling campaign sorties.

# Woman takes up cudgels for clan

From page A1

minder that in Masbate, politics is a life-or-death business.

A chapel sits inside the compound, built shortly after a hand grenade was thrown at the family as they attended Mass in a church just a few years before her father was murdered.

"Although it didn't explode, my father was not prepared to take any more risks with the family even in God's house," Maloli said. The chapel is where her father and brother are buried.

Since campaigning began in January for the May 14 midterm elections, scores of political workers and candidates have been murdered throughout the country—five of them in Masbate alone.

Half of the 24-seat Senate, all of the 236-member House of Representatives, and more than 18,000 local government posts are up for grabs.

## Formidable foe

Maloli knows what she is up against. Her opponent, former Gov. Antonio Kho, is a formidable foe having built a powerful support base in the province. The son of a Chinese trader from Amoy, now the city of Xiamen on the eastern coast of China, his family migrated to the Philippines in the late 1940s.

Out on the campaign trail, she travels in a convoy of three cars. At her feet are two hand guns that belonged to her father, discreetly tucked inside a black plastic carry case. On the front seat are two light-weight Kevlar flack jackets that a friend brought back from Africa.

Her bodyguards, all employed from provinces outside Masbate, are also armed.

"I prefer it that way. Everyone has his price, I know, but I still feel a little safer knowing those protecting me and my workers are from outside the province," Maloli said.

She recounted an incident recently when her convoy ran into Kho's convoy.

"At the time, everyone froze. None of us did anything. We just waited to see who would fire first," she said.

"It was one of those moments when anything could have happened. But the cars reversed and we passed each other and went on our way to our next campaign stop."

## Swimming with friends

Born in Masbate, Maloli spent her early years swimming with friends in the clear sea water off Masbate City, riding horses on the family ranch and accompanying her father.

There were six children in the family—three boys and three girls—but Maloli was her father's "little girl."

"It was a wonderful childhood," she recalled over coffee at the end of a day's campaigning.

The room is filled with reminders of her father—his saddles and a life-size portrait of him on horseback looking every bit the cowboy.

"They were different days then. Peaceful, beautiful days," she said.

Knowing that Masbate is the third poorest of the country's 81 provinces, Maloli wants to change the way politics is done here.

"We have to get away from the violence which has dominated politics here. Education and health are two areas that need to be addressed," she said.

Drive across the main island of Masbate and the coconut-lined beaches quickly give way to rolling pastures and treeless hills that could be cattle country in America or Australia.

"My father loved this place. He loved his horses, his guns and fighting cocks," she said. "Although he was tough, he was also loved by most of the people here.

## 'We're still here"

"I guess his political opponents thought that when he was assassinated, it would stop the Espinosas. But it didn't. We are still here," Maloli said.

"This should be a place where it is safe to retire to and a place where people can come and enjoy themselves. Not a place to be feared. Masbate is not as bad as many would have you believe."

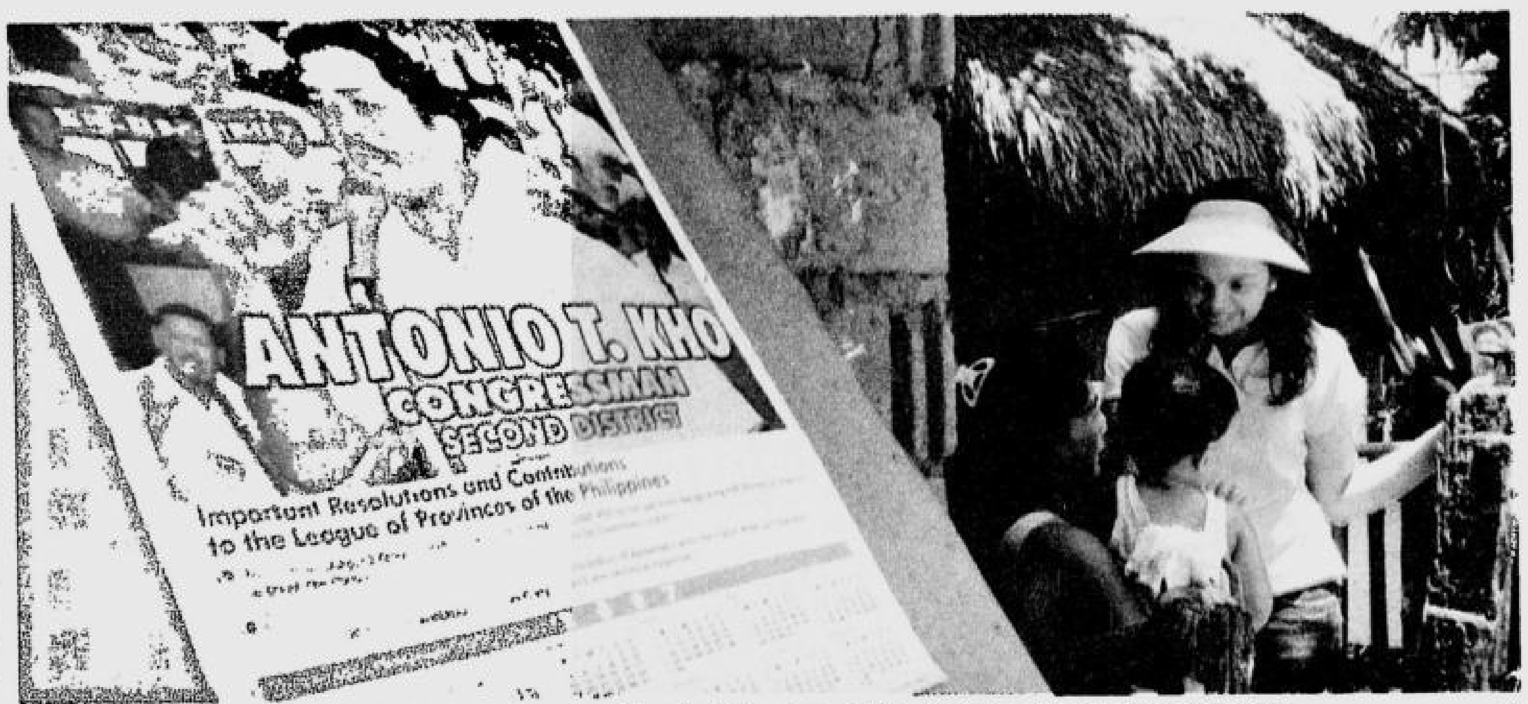
Maloli said she wanted people to vote for "me as a person not as an Espinosa."

"When I am out on the campaign trail, I tell them I was born and bred here. This is where my heart is and I want to make change. I want to improve their lives," she said.

In a country where votes are bought and election promises rarely kept, Maloli will have a hard time convincing voters that she can make a difference in their drab lives.

"People have told me if you can't protect your family from violence, how can you protect us?" she said. "I really don't have an answer for that one."

*AFP*


ANTONIO T. KHO
CONGRESSMAN
SECOND DISTRICT
Important Resolutions and Contributions to the League of Provinces of the Philippines

**ESPINOSA** campaigns in a village in Masbate. A poster of her rival, Gov. Antonio Kho, is displayed on the wall of a house. AFP

# 'Great Debate' of Election 2007: A false referendum

From page A1

There is no chance of reversing the dangerous and repressive policy on human rights and political liberty without public indignation translating into a backlash in the midterm elections.

Because Ms Arroyo is not up for reelection on May 14, the function of the midterm elections is to change the balance of power in Congress so that a new opposition majority could overturn the harmful public policy.

This was what the last midterm US elections did. It transferred control of Congress to the Democrats after two decades of Republican domination. The shift put the Democrats in power to reverse President George W. Bush's disastrous war policy on Iraq. It made that election truly a referendum on policy change.

When Philippine political commentators present the May elections as a "referendum" on the Arroyo administration, we have to ask: Referendum on what issues and policies?

## Avoiding policy alternatives

This is not the way the Arroyo administration and the opposition are looking at the elections. Both sides have avoided a head-on collision on issues concerning policy alternatives. Both have been derelict in their responsibilities to the sovereign people—that is, to present and clarify options. In this campaign, the issues have not been joined.

In her attempt to deflect the focus from the human rights issues that elicited international condemnation, Ms Arroyo has shifted the agenda of debate to the economy.

The opposition has refused to take up this gauntlet. Instead, it has focused its campaign on corruption and poverty, and evaded the human rights issue. This is not to say these two issues are not important. Thus, both sides have been talking past each other. Both have avoided the human rights and political liberties issue as though they were a plague on both houses.

## Voters confused

Both the administration and the opposition have shirked their responsibility to the voters who are confused over what they really are voting for or against on May 14. What public policy can we identify that rivals with the policy on (whether to reject or ratify it) Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan's excesses in the "all-out war" to crush the communist insurgency by 2010?

And so, when voters are asked to make this election a "referendum," they are presented with a fraudulent proposition that eludes debate on substance and ideas.

The real issue of the May elections is unstated. The real battle in the elections is over the control of Congress. It is not about the destiny of this country's democracy. In contrast, the run-off presidential election in France in which citizens faced the choice of two visions on the revival of national greatness—the socialist or the Right-wing vision.

Surveys suggest that the Arroyo administration's low approval ratings have been funneled into the Senate election for resolution.

The surveys show the opposition candidates are likely to win more than half of the 12 seats up for grabs. Even if the opposition takes control of the Senate, it would be no loss to the administration. It has never been in control of the Senate since 2004.

An opposition victory in the Senate alone does not empower it to reverse policy, given the diversity of views of senators. Each has a view on foreign and domestic policy.

The crucial battleground is the election for the House of Representatives. There, the administration faces a weak challenge.

Even Genuine Opposition spokesperson Adel Tamano and political strategist Horacio Morales have acknowledged that only half of its 144 candidates have a good chance of winning. A total of 275 seats (220 districts and up to 55 party-list seats) are at stake in the House of Representatives.

## First and last line of defense

The outcome there is more important for political control than for overturning policy. The House elections boil down to the bottom line of the administration's strategy: Hold the House as the first and last line of defense to crush another attempt at impeaching the President.

This explains the concentration of the Arroyo administration's campaign on the House.

The administration is building an electoral bunker on that terrain. On that level, there is no great debate. This is why Ms Arroyo is so confident that she can divert attention to the economy and callously ignore calls to protect the lives of citizens from extrajudicial executions.

She can contemptuously brush aside meddlesome international opinion on human rights violation, the broadside of the Chief Justice, and the railings of the Left and the press, without causing her heavy electoral damage.

Never mind if casualties continue to rise on the killing fields of the counterinsurgency war. What matters is that the administration's political machine, the "command vote" that it is expected to produce, is poised for a slaughter on another killing field—the House elections.

There lies the answer to the demise of the "Great Debate."

**Maynilad management and supervisors seal new CBA.** Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the Maynilad Water Supervisors' Association (MWSA) formally signed last April 22, 2007 the new Collective Bargaining Agreement that covers around 300 supervisors of the water firm. The new CBA grants Maynilad supervisors a pay increase of P2,950 on the first year, and P2,900 for the second and third years, among other increase in benefits. MWSA union president Roberta Estimo noted that the approval of the new CBA "is not solely for monetary purposes, it is about mutual support, cooperation, and open communication" between the management and employees. Maynilad board director Herbert Consunji said that the new CBA is a triumph not only of the new owners, the DMCI-Metro Pacific consortium, and the employees but also the public that Maynilad serves. In photo, Estimo (5th from left) seals the deal with Herbert Consunji (6th from left) after signing the new CBA. They were joined by Maynilad officials (seated, from left) Randolph Estrellado (Maynilad board member and CFO), Jorge Consunji (DMCI Holdings director and Maynilad board member), Rodolfo Reyno (Maynilad VP for Administration and Logistics), David Lao (MWSA vice president), Jose Ma. Lim (MPIC president and Maynilad board member), Isidro Consunji (DMCI Holdings president and Maynilad board vice chairman), Antonio Garcia (Maynilad SAVP for Sewerage and Sanitation), Jerry Palma (Maynilad OIC for Administration), and other Maynilad management and MWSA officers. This development follows the signing of the CBA with Maynilad's rank-and-file union, Maynilad Water and Sewerage Union-Philippine Transport Group Workers Organization (MWSU-PTGWO), last March 2, 2007.

ADVT

# Palace retreats on Binay

From page A1

In a statement, Puno said he was putting off the suspension "in the spirit of fair play."

The Office of the Ombudsman ordered the preventive suspension of Binay—his second in six months—while he was being investigated for allegedly filling the city payroll with "ghost employees."

Assistant Interior Secretary Brian Yamsuan said the "deferment" was actually "the continuation of the dialogue" between Binay and Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus and the Philippine National Police on Friday.

"We wanted to be civil and prudent, that's why there was a dialogue. We acted in good faith," Yamsuan said in a telephone interview.

The Department of the Interior and Local Government implemented the suspension order on Friday because it could be charged with dereliction of duty if it did not, he said.

Tension gripped the Makati City Hall on Friday night after DILG officials, armed with a suspension order from the Ombudsman, tried to evict Binay.

Corpus, accompanied by senior police officers, met with Binay to serve the order, but Corpus later agreed to defer serving the order to today.

## Denied due process

The deferment of his suspension did not appease Binay.

"The Filipino people, not just in Makati, all know that (Malacañang's) sole objective is to achieve its political ends without regard to public interest," Binay said in the statement.

Binay could not be reached for an interview yesterday.

His political adviser, Lito Anzures, said the mayor was conferring with his lawyers about his legal options in a closed-door meeting.

Although he agreed to receive the suspension order, Binay said he would ask the Court of Appeals today to issue a temporary restraining order (TRO) against its implementation.

Binay said he was denied due process by the Office of the Ombudsman when it failed to provide him a copy of the complaint filed by a congressional candidate who, he noted, was running under Ms Arroyo's party.

Lakas candidate Oscar Ibay filed the complaint in December 2006 but Binay said that up to now, he had not received a copy of the charges.

Neither has he been asked by the Ombudsman to comment on the allegations, he said.

Binay alleged that his political opponents had known about his imminent suspension as early as last week.

"It's the same as the garnishment order from the BIR."

Binay maintained that the suspension was part of a Malacañang plan to harass him for being a vocal critic of the administration, citing a series of events that began with the killing of his security chief, Pablo Glean, last year.

"The pattern of harassment is clear. After the still unsolved killing of my security chief, Malacañang tried to suspend me in October last year, but this was stopped by the people of Makati," he said.

Officials tried to serve a suspension order against Binay last year based on a complaint by his political rival Roberto Brillante that he and the city council were keeping ghost employees.

## Face-saving move

But the mayor, after barricading himself with his supporters at City Hall for three days, obtained a TRO and later an injunction barring interior officials from carrying out the suspension order.

Binay said that the lifting of the garnishment order on Makati's assets was another "face-saving move."

He questioned the order, saying the city had already paid P200 million to the BIR in a compromise settlement, and argued that the freeze order would cripple the city government.

In a statement, Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag said he had ordered the agency's regional office to limit its freeze order on Makati's bank accounts to only the amount that covered the tax claim.

## Unusual

The move is unusual for the BIR, which normally freezes all bank accounts of a delinquent taxpayer, regardless of amount, until the dispute has been settled and the levy paid.

"To enable the uninterrupted delivery of basic services to the people of Makati and the payment of salaries of city employees, I have been instructed by the President to take the necessary steps to limit the writ of garnishment issued by the Bureau against the City of Makati to the amount of unpaid taxes and increments being claimed by the BIR," he said.

The case stemmed from the city government's alleged failure to remit a total of P1.15 billion in withholding taxes of about 8,000 employees from 1999 to 2002.

With Buñag's order, the BIR's Makati unit immediately instructed the presidents, treasurers and cashiers of the banks that held Makati's funds to lift and cancel the warrant of garnishment issued on May 2.

## List of banks

These banks are Equitable PCI Bank, Philippine National Bank, Allied Banking Corp., Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Asiatrust Development Bank, China Banking Corp., LBC Development Bank, Planters Development Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., Union Bank of the Philippines, United Coconut Planters Bank, Security Bank Corp., Asia United Bank, Bank of Commerce, BDO Private Bank, Export Industry Bank, International Exchange Bank, Philippine Bank of Communications, Philippine Trust Co., Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines and Banco Filipino.

Baquiran also ordered the lifting and the cancellation of the warrant of garnishment on Makati's funds in Philippine Veterans Bank beyond the disputed amount of tax liabilities.

"Makati has deposits in Veterans Bank that can cover the amount due our unpaid taxes," Buñag said.

The BIR said the city's unpaid tax liabilities stood at P600 million to P700 million for the years 1999, 2000 and 2001. This is significantly lower than the P1.1-billion liability the tax agency earlier announced.

## Palace not giving up

Malacañang said it was not giving up the legal battle to unseat Binay.

Palace legal counsel Sergio Apostol even accused Binay, the president of the United Opposition, of using his court battle against corruption charges to advance his political interest.

"He is the one doing a martial law in Makati," Apostol said.

Team Unity campaign strategist Ben Evardone denied that Malacañang was softening its stance.

"How can you sympathize with a person like Binay who would like to defy the court? This will not affect election results, contrary to what GO and Binay are saying," he said.

Yamsuan rejected suggestions that Puno backtracked after Ms Arroyo blew her top over the Binay issue. "That's not true," he said.

What happened was that after the report on Binay's suspension broke in the media, Ms Arroyo called Puno to inquire "if the suspension order was true," Yamsuan said.

He said that even Ms Arroyo was not informed about the suspension order and the subsequent implementation of the Ombudsman's order by the DILG.

## Puno acting on his own?

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Puno was acting on his own when he decided to defer the implementation of the suspension order.

"Yes, the DILG is the implementing arm of government on matters of this nature. Whatever it is, Secretary Puno as head of the local government is taking this action according to his better judgment as implementor of the executive branch on matters of this nature."

Ermita begged off, when asked about the BIR decision to lift the writ of garnishment issued against the city government.

"I have no idea," he said. *With reports from Daxim L. Lucas and Michael Lim Ubac*

## *Team Unity senatorial candidates worried*

**By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.**

TEAM UNITY SENATORIAL candidates are worried that the ill-timed suspension of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay could have an adverse impact on them on Election Day.

"We're happy that Mayor Binay can now campaign freely. Now that it's done, Team Unity candidates can now move on and concentrate on the business at hand," said candidate Michael Defensor on the day the interior secretary put off the suspension of Binay and the revenue chief unfroze most of the assets of Makati City.

Defensor admitted that had the event (suspension) allowed to fester, TU would have bore the brunt of the people's adverse reaction.

"Whether we like it or not, the perception is that we are arm-twisting or bullying another person during a crucial period in the campaign," Defensor said.

He said he discussed the event with a fellow TU senatorial candidate, who expressed frustration that all their hard work in the campaign would go to naught because of the Makati incident.

"I think the order is wrong. The deed, the timing and the nature of the order are all bad. It's very obvious that the filing had been timed for the election. They (interior department officials) should have just waited until after the elections. It's just a few days anyway," said reelectionist Sen. Joker Arroyo on radio dzRH.

Arroyo said the order was served late Friday in order to block Binay from seeking a TRO on either Saturday or Sunday.

"It's obvious that it's a personal thing with the series of orders. They want to paralyze Makati because they are angry at Mayor Binay. That is really bad," Arroyo said.

"If you ask me, I'd immediately order the withdrawal of the two orders," he said.

# *I don't want to die here, RP hostage says*

From page A1

The eight Filipino laborers and three South Korean executives were seized on Thursday by armed men in Nigeria's oil-rich south after a gun battle at a power plant construction site.

Contact has been made with the gunmen but with little result so far.

"We are in the forest, there is no tent, no shade, no food, no water. For three days, we are beaten up. I don't know what will happen next," the hostage said.

Radio dzBB said it obtained the recording from a colleague of the Filipinos who had recently returned home and whose mobile telephone the hostages called to air their appeal.

All the men work for South Korea's Daewoo Engineering and Construction.

## Every hour important

"Every single time, every single hour is important. They asked us to call for help," the hostage went on, apparently struggling to contain his emotions.

"Why? Because our management Daewoo is not doing anything good to release us."

He urged those listening to take their case to Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo "to facilitate our release immediately."

There were no names mentioned, although a heavily accented voice could be heard in the background telling the hostage what to say.

It was also not clear what the hostage takers were demanding.

## $1-M ransom

But another Philippine radio, dzMM, quoted Nora Gulyesi, described as the wife of one of the Filipino hostages, as saying that the abductors were demanding $1 million for the workers' release.

Radio dzMM said Gulyesi had contacted her husband at Port Harcourt, Nigeria, and he had asked her to relay to President Macapagal-Arroyo a plea for the immediate release of the hostages.

## Safe and sound?

Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos told the INQUIRER that he had not received confirmation of the report.

"Assuming there was really a demand for ransom, it's the Nigerian government talking (with the rebels) that is addressing this," said Conejos.

Gulyesi was also quoted as saying that, according to her husband, the kidnappers had stopped giving the hostages food, just water. But Conejos said this would be contrary to the assurances given by Nigerian officials on Friday that the hostages remained "safe and sound."

The Philippines' Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa) was told of the dzBB tape but declined to comment until it hears from negotiators.

Owwa Administrator Marianito Roque said talks involving Filipino diplomats and Daewoo officials were under way to secure the freedom of hostages.

He said the tape would be analyzed but indicated it could be a way for the Nigerian gunmen to exert more pressure. "What you are hearing is what the hostage takers want you to hear," Roque said.

## Negotiations ongoing

"Negotiations are going on between the company and hostage takers. We would leave (the situation) to the negotiators of the Philippine embassy and Daewoo in Abuja."

The Koreans and Filipinos were among 28 foreigners who had been seized on land or sea in Africa's biggest oil-producing nation since Tuesday. The figure includes a British worker and a Belarusian woman and her driver abducted on Saturday. Eight of them were later released.

Daewoo said it was temporarily closing the construction site, and evacuated 135 Daewoo employees and 60 Filipino workers after the kidnapping.

In January, 25 Filipino workers were also abducted in Nigeria in separate incidents but were all later freed unharmed.

## No repatriation

The abductions prompted the Philippines to impose a ban on sending workers to the oil-producing African state and implement a repatriation plan for some 4,000 citizens there.

But the man who brought the recorded message to dzBB said the foreign office's repatriation plan never got fully off the ground.

"They told us we would be immediately repatriated batch by batch and to be implemented in the first two weeks of March. There was no repatriation," he charged, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"If they had fulfilled their promise, none of this would have happened," he said. *AFP with a report from Volt Contreras*

# Granddaughter remembers Lolo Doroy

From page A1

of Philippine Journalism."

Born on May 7, 1913, in Tanauan, Batangas, Lolo Doroy experienced tragedy early when he was orphaned as a child. Having been born to a well-off family, Lolo struggled through the financial transition as a young student, supporting himself through grade school and high school by making homemade ice cream and peddling it on the streets.

Through the patronage of a Thomasite priest, Juan Labrador, Lolo Doroy was made a scholar at the University of Santo Tomas, where he earned degrees in Philosophy (1935) and Education (1936).

Sometime during his high school and university years, Lolo Doroy worked as a janitor.

It was said that as vice chair of the National Parks Development Committee, Lolo Doroy made sure all the toilets in the Luneta Park were always sparkling clean, such that "you could eat off the floors." I believe that was a throwback to his janitor years, when he took great pride and satisfaction in delivering the most thorough job.

## Big break

In 1936, he married Trinidad Tapia and entered the Philippine Law School, again as a working student. He received his Bachelor of Laws in 1941. The couple had three daughters—Celita, Roceli and my own mother, Rosabella, born in 1943.

He got his big break at the tail end of World War II. He convinced D. H. Soriano, then coeditor with Abe Aguilar Cruz of the Sunday Times, a tabloid which preceded the daily Manila Times, to give him a column, called "Over a Cup of Coffee." The column ran on Feb. 20, 1945, and continued for over 40 years, until his death.

Carmen Guerrero Nakpil describes Lolo Doroy in her introduction to the similarly titled book "Over a Cup of Coffee":

"Doroy Valencia has been billed—never by himself but by his critics and admirers—as a man of many parts: Journalist, broadcaster, teacher, community-leader, king-maker, philanthropist. This book shows that the whole is greater than any of its parts. For the heterogenous Doroy is also a philosopher. His philosophy? It is as simple, lucid and powerful as his persona. It can be summed up thus: Be yourself, strive mightily, love your country and the devil take the hindmost.

## Power to sway policy

"His own contribution to Philippine letters is the form of the popular column: Short paragraphs consisting of simple, declarative sentences, chock-full of facts, delivering information and opinion with a punch, the whole capped by an accusation or rejoinder of the utmost firmness."

TEODORO "DOROY" VALENCIA

As I read some of his works for the first time, I am stunned with the freshness, craft and ingenuity of a humorous piece on, of all things, the uses of a paper clip. I am moved by the prescience of an environmental piece advocating clean waters so that the delicious freshwater *tawilis* (herring) in Batangas can flourish. I am enraged as he protests strongly against how American country club members in upscale Burlingame, California, grossly discriminate against Filipino members. I am inspired as he calls provincial and local governments to build parks like the Luneta all over the country.

To be sure, these writings are no longer news today, but they are history, and no less relevant. In his time, his column was of tremendous influence, wielding power to sway government policy.

Neal H. Cruz recounts:

"Just by writing his column ... without any legislative power, he changed our income tax laws. He knew the cheating going on in the net income tax system—and he probably had a hard time computing his tax under that system—so he argued everyday in his column for changing it into the gross income tax system. He was so *makulit* (pesky) that the government finally adopted the gross tax system."

## Airing OPM on radio

It was with this same power that Lolo Doroy helped pass the bill that made Original Pilipino Music, or OPM, required airplay on radio stations nationwide.

Lolo Doroy also helped organize and secure funding for the National Parks Development Committee, the Philippine Eye and Ear Infirmary Indigent Hospital, the Philippine Association of Music Industry, Boy Scouts of the Philippines, Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster sa Pilipinas, the Famas, Sports Development Foundation of the Philippines, Philippine Educational Theatre Association, the Zarzuela Foundation of the Philippines, among others.

At the time of Lolo's administration of the National Parks, Luneta was among the cleanest parks in Asia and the pride of the Philippines. Lolo ceded commercial kiosks in the Luneta to special interest groups such as the deaf and dumb infirmary and the Philippine Cancer Society so they could generate income for their needs. Ex-convicts found dignity and a new start at Luneta as janitors and sweepers.

Unfortunately, the parks deteriorated after Lolo's passing; so have the unique human services he instituted. He was a social entrepreneur ahead of his time.

## Favorite charities

He established the Teodoro F. Valencia Foundation to continue helping his favorite charities, among them the Red Cross, Golden Acres, Tahanang Walang Hagdan and Elsie Gaches Village. One of those closest to his heart, the orphanage called the Hospicio de San Jose, continues to receive donations from the foundation.

No matter his informal adviser status for Philippine presidents from Garcia to Aquino, and his work as serial social entrepreneur and architect, Lolo never lost sight of the brotherhood of newspapermen.

As sometime president of the Manila Overseas Press Club and the National Press Club, Lolo Doroy loomed as benevolent patriarch. There are countless stories on how he helped financially struggling or sick journalists, or how he gave out of his own pocket even as he was on his deathbed.

His passion for journalism never waned. In his own words, "once a newspaperman always a newspaperman." And he loved his own.

## Lost sense of mission

He observed, however, that new journalists were less focused on nation-building than on the simple objective of reporting the news. He said that journalists had lost a sense of mission. He believed that all journalists should see themselves as nation-builders. Certainly, that was how he saw himself, and that was how he lived his life.

Twenty years later, I am finally writing my memoir and biography on Lolo Doroy. I've also started work on a film documentary and, significantly, a musical play, which hopefully will even more accurately evoke his vibrant and colorful life.

You can help put together his life's story. I call on all who knew him to share stories of Ka Doroy. Kindly get in touch with me at: tfvalenciaprojects@gmail.com. Mementos, letters, photos, artwork, recorded video and audio are particularly welcome. At the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Teodoro F. Valencia Foundation in September, new products and services in line with Lolo Doroy's advocacies will be launched.

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Late SPORTS
9

WAYLAND White of the Welcoat Dragons struggles to keep possession as Alaska stalwarts Sonny Thoss (left) and Jeffrey Cariaso (right) apply defensive pressure. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

# Alaska trims Welcoat; SMB up

**GAME TOMORROW** (*Araneta Coliseum*)
7 p.m.—RP Team vs Imports

**By Musong R. Castillo**

ALASKA PICKED THE RIGHT time to play bad.

The Aces didn't really get anything going last night but still pounded out a 74-66 decision over a Welcoat side that played much worse as Alaska kept its hopes alive for an automatic semifinal berth in the PBA Fiesta Cup.

The Aces struggled on both ends at the Araneta Coliseum before climbing into a tie for second place with idle Air21 and Red Bull with 8-4 marks.

And Tim Cone knew how lucky he was.

"They had us confused," Cone said. "There were times when we got open (for shots) and we just couldn't knock them down.

"In an 18-game (elimination) schedule, you have 3 to 4 games like this when your offense doesn't show up," he added. "And these are games that you have to win, especially since this is very important to us."

While the Aces snapped out of a two-game slide, the Dragons lost for the sixth straight time and got buried deeper in the cellar with a 2-10 card.

San Miguel, going import-less in the stretch, hung tough to eke out a 78-75 victory over Purefoods for its fourth straight win in the second game.

The Beermen survived the loss of Galen Young to fouls with still five minutes left to tie Coca-Cola in sixth spot at 5-7 while dealing the Tender Juicy Giants their ninth loss in 13 games.

Only one team will get the boot after the double round eliminations, and Welcoat, with only six games to play, will have a lot of ground to make up with Sta. Lucia sporting a 3-8 card in ninth spot.

Sonny Thoss scored 15 points like Willie Miller and Rosell Ellis and John Ferriols were the only other Aces in twin digits with 13 and 10, respectively.

Alaska, winless this decade after dominating in the 1990s, did not get much breathing room until it opened up the fourth period with a 12-6 spurt that gave the Aces a 66-56 lead with 5:17 left.

Wayland White was again of little help offensively, shooting just 18 points in his second game. He did have 20 rebounds, three blocks and four steals but still couldn't bail the Dragons out of their deep bind.

**The scores:**

**First Game**

**ALASKA 74**—Thoss 15, Miller 15, Ellis 13, Ferriols 10, Singson 6, Cariaso 6, Laure 5, Belasco 4, Aban 0, Hugnatan 0, Bajar 0, Juinio 0.

**WELCOAT 66**—White 18, Wainwright 12, Lopez 9, Ibanez 8, Compton 7, Sta. Maria 7, Lao 3, Cabatu 2, Baguion 0, Gelig 0.

**Quarters:** 15-17, 31-all, 54-50, 74-66

**Second Game**

**SAN MIGUEL 78**—Young 14, Racela 14, Calaguio 13, Tenorio 9, Gonzales 9, Ildefonso 8, Wilson 5, Adducul 2, Cablay 2, Pena 2, Adriano 0.

**PUREFOODS 75**—Simon 20, Chandler 15, Artadi 8, J. Yap 8, Rp Yap 8, Evangelista 8, Yee 7, Salvador 1, Limpot 0, Castillo 0.

**Quarters:** 18-19, 43-34, 66-60, 78-75

More Sports stories on A29 to 32

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# Breaking down barriers on campus

**Postgraduate student is first Muslim woman to chair UP University Student Council**

By Margaux C. Ortiz

SHAHANA Abdulwahid, a former student councilor, never thought that she would one day head the entire student council. AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

THERE WERE DOUBTS AND even opposition coming from some members in her own group.

But Shahana Abdulwahid, who is taking up her master's degree at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, was bent on breaking existing stereotypes about Muslim women.

In March, she ran for the highest post of the University Student Council—and won, making her the first Muslim female student to become University Student Council chair.

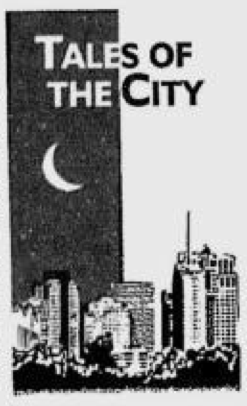
The 23-year-old Zamboanga native told the INQUIRER that she did not expect to win.

She recalled that she was surprised when officers of Stand-Up—one of the university's student political parties—asked her last December to be their standard bearer in this year's student council elections.

At that time, Abdulwahid, who was already serving on the USC as a councilor, had just decided to give up her political career on the campus and concentrate on her studies.

"I was very thankful that I had been given the chance to be of service to the other students the best way I could. But I felt that I had reached the end of my political career and there was no other way to go from there," she said.

Abdulwahid first joined the USC in 2005 as the representative of the College of Social Sciences and Philosophy (CSSP) where she was an undergraduate student. She then ran for university councilor the following year and ended up garnering the most number of votes.



After she graduated cum laude with a degree in philosophy last year, Abdulwahid was offered a scholarship at the UP Institute of Islamic Studies. She was in her first year of her postgraduate studies when another shot at the student council beckoned—this time, for a position Abdulwahid never aspired to.

"I said no to Stand-Up when its officers offered to field me for USC chair last December," she recalled.

Although another Muslim, Rommel Romato, had won as USC chair in 2002, Abdulwahid felt that she was not right for the job. She was aware that women occupying the highest position in politics were unheard of in Muslim culture.

"I was in a dilemma then because of all the preconceived notions people have of Muslim women," Abdulwahid said. Dealing with the restrictions—which a fellow member of the Muslim Students Association (MSA) passionately pointed out to her—would be another big issue, she told herself.

But the Stand-Up officers were not to give up that easily. In the end, Abdulwahid decided to consult professors of the Institute of Islamic Studies about her problem.

"My professors told me that it was okay for me to run as USC chair because although it is the highest student position in an academic institution, Muslim women are only restricted from heading an Islamic state," she explained.

Her parents, who initially expressed apprehension at the thought of their daughter leading the entire student council, finally relented and gave her their support when Abdulwahid explained her professors' opinion.

However, she still had to overcome the opposition coming from some members of her own student organization.

A schoolmate reminded Abdulwahid that campaigning, which involved speaking in front of a crowd and mingling with people, would expose her to temptation.

"She emphasized that good Muslim women should always stand behind the men and subserviently follow them," the USC chair said.

However, Abdulwahid was not to be swayed. She explained to her schoolmate that Muslim women should not allow themselves to be forever imprisoned in that kind of thinking.

"Besides, I have been a leader for as long as I can remember—serving as class president from fifth grade to fourth year high school back in Zamboanga," she recalled, smiling.

As a member of the Sama group, which is one of the 13 Muslim ethno-linguistic groups in Mindanao to which the Maranaos, Badjaos, and Tausugs also belong, Abdulwahid and her three sisters grew up valuing education.

She explained that each of the 13 groups has its' own distinct characteristics. While Maranaos, for example, are popular for their successful business endeavors, the Sama people are known to put

BREAKING/ A26

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# ABS-CBN reporter to get ₱100,000 cash reward

**By Julie M. Aurelio**

A REWARD OF P100,000 FROM Parañaque Mayor Florencio Bernabe Jr. awaits a TV reporter who last week turned over to police the suspect in the shooting of a teenage boy three weeks ago.

ABS-CBN reporter Gus Abelgas will receive part of the P250,000 reward for helping bring about the surrender of Mark Anthony Borines, the main suspect in the shooting of 16-year-old Ronald Anthony Lim on April 18.

"Mr. Abelgas will get part of the reward for serving as a conduit to the apprehension of the suspect," said Nelson Lacambra, the mayor's spokesperson.

Last week, Roland Lim, the victim's father; Bernabe and the Southern Police District announced that they had jointly raised a P250,000 reward money for anyone who could help police in apprehending Borines.

On Thursday night, Abelgas reported that he helped in the surrender of Borines, who has been on the run since being positively identified as the boy's killer.

But Roland Lim has subsequently complained against Abelgas for allegedly giving undue media attention to his son's killer.

"I thank Abelgas for facilitating the surrender, but I wish he did not have to give that man a chance to speak on air," he said in a phone interview. "Borines is a criminal, he does not deserve that. I just wish justice would be given to my son," he added.

He also alleged that the TV reporter was not accompanied by police when Borines surrendered to him, and that Abelgas even kept the suspect at the ABS-CBN office for a period of time.

But Roland Lim said he had no objection to Abelgas being given the promised reward.

"I leave the fate of Borines up to God, but I couldn't help but be furious at the criminal. I am a parent, I knew right away that he was the one who killed my son. It's a parent's instinct," he said.

Supt Ronald Estilles, Parañaque police chief, said Abelgas, who had gone with a police team on an operation to catch the suspect, was able to talk to an uncle of Borines. It was the uncle who told the reporter that the suspect wanted to surrender.

Estilles said the 21-year-old suspect was brought by Abelgas to his office at 3:30 p.m. Thursday.

Borines has denied that he was the one who shot Lim with a .38 cal. revolver in an Internet cafe in Better Living Subdivision on April 18. According to witnesses, the boy was playing video games when Borines took his cell phone. A scuffle ensued and the teen managed to take back his phone but Borines shot him in the head.

METRO Citizen's call 0918-8985566

## Wanted: Traffic aide

A TRAFFIC aide is urgently needed at the corner of F. B. Harrison Street and Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue in Pasay City to protect pedestrians crossing the street. May we request Metropolitan Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando to please assign one from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

*BOY ROBLES, 52, Pasay City*

## Market needs cleanup

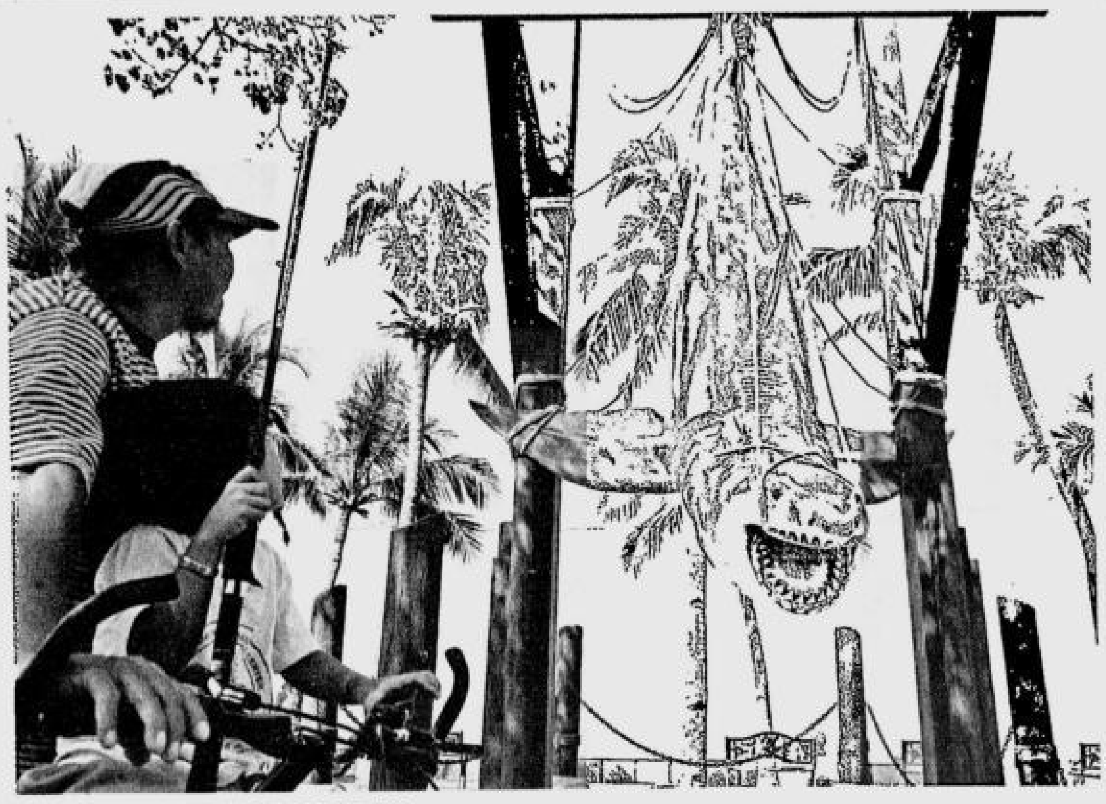
I'D LIKE to report the undesirable environment at the Bicutan market, with its foul odor and unpleasant surroundings. Please ask the authorities concerned to check this site.

*TRIBACO, 23, Muntinlupa City*

## Waiting for Marcos bridge opening

THE ONGOING repair work on the Marcos Highway bridge gives motorists a big headache because of the traffic situation there. Isn't the new P1-billion bridge open yet? Poor us, hapless taxpayers. Imagine not being able to use the bridge we paid for just because it hasn't been inaugurated yet. No politics please! *Tama na!* (Enough already!)

*JENNI BULAN, 40, Antipolo City*



**NO WAY TO TREAT SHARKS**
**From Ann Fernandez, 35, Quezon City: "We hope Manila Mayor Lito Atienza takes down this replica of a shark made to look like it was captured and then hung upside down in the Baywalk area on Roxas Boulevard. This does not teach our children the importance of conserving marine life, but instead sends a message that sharks are bad creatures and that it is okay to treat them that way. We are now losing many of our animals and natural resources. Putting up this shark replica for public display at the Baywalk, a leisure spot not only for locals but tourists as well, appears to be a careless move on the part of city officials. This 'attraction' gives the impression that Filipinos have no regard for conservation efforts and laws protecting the environment and marine resources. As far as I know, it is illegal to hunt down sharks."**
EDWIN BACASMAS

## DID YOU KNOW

ON MAY 5, 1939, the National Assembly decided to transfer the main campus of the University of the Philippines from Padre Faura in Manila to a 493-hectare lot in Diliman. On Feb. 12, 1949, university alumni, faculty and students joined a motorcade transferring the Oblation, UP's bronzed symbol, from Padre Faura to its new home. Three colleges—Medicine, Public Health and Dentistry—remained on the Manila campus.

*Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

# Lapid, Binay both claim victory in mayoral race

**By DJ Yap**

BY HIS OWN ESTIMATION, SEN. LITO LAPID reckons that he is a far more popular figure than his rival for Makati's top post, Mayor Jejomar Binay, whose influence is concentrated in the financial capital.

A movie actor, Lapid bets that more people around the country will recognize him much more than the nondescript Binay. "*Mas popular ako sa kanya eh* (I'm more famous than he is)," he says simply.

But as Lapid well knows, it's a different story in the "Republic of Makati."

In arguably the country's most affluent business district, the incumbent mayor enjoys a loyal following from the populace, whose allegiance he has won in the six terms he has served there.

ELEKSYON 2007

In fact, Lapid is positioning himself as the underdog in the race for the mayoralty of Makati—something that's not lost on his opponent.

In his sorties, for instance, Lapid likes to tell the audience: "*Di man ako palarin dito—di niyo man ako iboto, tuloy pa rin ang serbisyo ni Lito Lapid. Dahil ako'y senador pa rin hanggang 2010, kaya wala kayong talo* (If I do not make it here and you don't elect me, my service will continue because I will be senator until 2010, so you have nothing to lose)," he says.

Asked what he plans to do if he loses, Lapid musters a quick reply: "*Senador ako* (I'm still a senator). *Kaya nga nanggagalaite siya eh* (Which is why he is so furious)," referring to Binay.

For Binay, winning the mayoral race is a foregone conclusion. Asked a question starting with "hypothetically, let's say you win ..." he laughs and says: "There's no more 'hypothetically' in that."

On Friday night, after being served a suspension order by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Binay told his supporters to thank President Macapagal-Arroyo for virtually ensuring his victory.

He adds that Lapid is fighting a losing battle by running for Makati mayor at a time that his political clout is strongest in the city.

"For all the time I've been mayor here, (today is) the golden age for the city," he says.

The question remains, however. Will Lapid get a chance to wrest the mayoralty of Makati from Binay, who happens to be president of the United Opposition?

Lapid believes so.

"*Noong una, takot ako dahil baka bastusin ako, baka di ako* welcome *sa Makati dahil sanay na kay mayor* (At first I was apprehensive that people would be rude to me, that I would not be welcome here because they're used to the mayor)," he says.

"But when we came out, the people welcomed us. I kept asking, 'Could this be true?'" Lapid says, speaking in Filipino.

"Then I thought maybe it's just because I'm an actor, and the cheers would not translate into votes. But when I ask them if they would vote for me, they always say yes," he adds.

Binay, however, says his performance is the reason for his enduring popularity.

In particular, he cites the city's social services for Makati residents: "Here, we take care of everyone from cradle to grave. From 100 percent vaccination for infants to medical benefits for senior citizens, our services don't fail," he says.

One particular benefit that has endeared him to residents is the free movie passes for senior citizens.

"Regardless of economic level *'yan. Ang karamihan ngang nanonood nung* movies *mga taga*-villages (Most of those who avail themselves of free movies are those who live in the villages,)" he says.

Another ace up Binay's sleeve is his "campaign every day" philosophy. This is most obvious in his presence at most wakes.

"Just consider this. I go to funerals an average of eight per day or night. Eight times 30 days, that's 240. Multiply it by 12 and multiply it by my 22 years of service. That is about 50,700 something," he says.

"Ask anyone in Makati and chances are, he or she has seen me at a funeral wake. That's my way of campaigning," he says.

# Breaking down barriers . . .

From page A25

great value in and excel in education.

"As children, we were required to attend Madrassah or Muslim Arabic school on weekends and during summer vacations," she explained.

Abdulwahid added that growing up in a diverse community in Zamboanga—where Muslims, Chinese and Christians live in the same neighborhood—helped open up her mind and relate to other cultures.

"I never dreamed though that I would someday end up being the chair of the student council," she said.

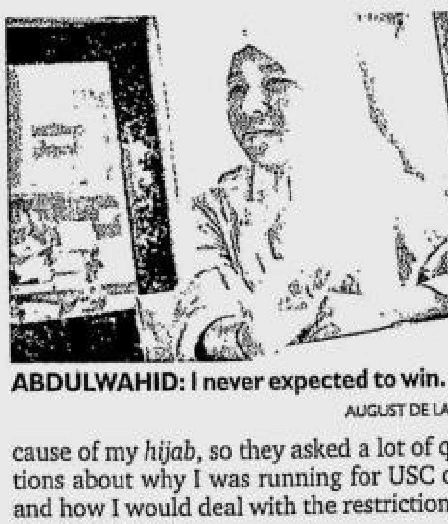
She added that she was surprised at how well the students received her candidacy, and later affirmed it during the elections.

"I was careful to still abide by Muslim rules during the campaign period," Abdulwahid related. She said that handshakes with the opposite sex are a no-no, because Muslim culture dictates that females should not interact intimately with men.

"Instead of shaking hands with male students which is one manifestation of intimacy in our culture, I gave them leaflets and flyers," Abdulwahid recalled with amusement. But whenever contact such as handshakes could not be avoided, she gave in out of politeness and respect.

Abdulwahid's *hijab* or traditional Muslim headdress, which the Koran requires Muslim girls who have reached the age of puberty to wear, also raised questions among the UP student population.

"People easily recognized my religion because of my *hijab*, so they asked a lot of questions about why I was running for USC chair and how I would deal with the restrictions involved," she said.



**ABDULWAHID: I never expected to win.**
AUGUST DE LA CRUZ

"I shared with them what my professors earlier explained to me: that it is possible for a Muslim woman to run for the highest position in an academic institution," she added.

Though excited over her victory, she admitted that as the first Muslim female to head the UP Diliman student council, she has a big responsibility resting on her shoulders.

"I never expected that the students would accept my candidacy the way they did, especially because I come from a minority group," Abdulwahid said.

She added, "I am glad that my decision to run for this position has somehow changed some people's opinions of what Muslim women are capable of."

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
for the
CREDIT RISK ENGINE SYSTEM (CRES) PROJECT

The *Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP)* is conducting a public bidding for the procurement of a credit risk modeling and rating/scoring solution for the CRES Project.

The primary purpose of this turn-key project is the acquisition of an automated, centralized, fully integrated, "commercial-off-the shelf" credit risk modeling and rating/scoring solution of the Bank, which includes the following components:

- Software application, licenses and other software components (DBMS; APIs; connectors; middleware; etc.)
- Various technical and development tools

Furthermore, the CRES solution provider shall also be responsible for the Extract-Transform-Load (ETL) process, that is, the extraction of all required data from the different source systems, data transformation and data loading to the target database(s). The solution provider shall also be responsible for the following requisite activities: source to target mapping, data availability and quality assessment, design and development of the ETL routines and system integration testing of the ETL routines. The solution provider has the option to use the Bank's existing ETL tool - Informatica PowerCenter 7.1.2 to facilitate the ETL process.

The proposed system should be compliant to Basel II and other regulatory requirements of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).

To ensure the highest degree of fit of the CRES solution to the Bank's requirements, and to effectively manage change, the project scope likewise covers all the requisite software customizations, as well as change management activities like change management planning and communication, the review of *"As Is"* processes, business process simplification and improvement, the documentation and training on the *"To Be"* processes, organizational change assessment, and assistance in the implementation of the required organizational and process changes.

The proposed solution should be implemented in Production within a maximum of twelve (12) months from the award of the contract.

The project must take into account all related implementation activities and processes such as data conversion/migration, systems integration, project management, system development lifecycle, change management, technology transfer (training and documentation), and maintenance and support. Likewise, the solution provider is expected to conduct a post-implementation review at least ninety (90) days, but not to exceed one hundred twenty (120) days, after the system has been implemented in Production, to assess the project performance and the effectiveness of the system.

**This is a procurement for Consulting Services and subject to Public Bidding and Quality-Cost Based Evaluation (85% Technical and 15% Financial).**

Interested parties may secure the *Eligibility and Short-listing Requirements*, ***upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) and upon signing of a Confidentiality Agreement***, from ***07 - 18 May 2007***, during regular office hours (between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.), from:

**THE SECRETARIAT**
Information Technology – Bids and Awards Committee (IT-BAC)
LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES
16th Floor, LANDBANK Plaza
M.H. del Pilar corner J. Quintos Streets, Malate, 1004 Manila, Philippines
Telephone : +63 2 405-7123
Fax Number : +63 2 528-8588
Contact Person : Alan V. Bornas
Head – Technology Management Group
Email Address : itbac@mail.landbank.com

The Letter of Intent, the accomplished *Evaluation Forms (List of Projects* and *Project Team Information and Requirements Checklist) for Short-listing* and the rest of the *Eligibility Requirements* must be submitted by hand not later than ***01 June 2007, 3:00 p.m.*** to the aforementioned address. Only parties who pass the Eligibility Check shall be allowed to participate in the bidding procedure.

The IT-BAC shall draw up a short-list of firms from those who have been determined as eligible and the number of short-listed firms shall not exceed five (5), in accordance with the following criteria:

- Gartner's Evaluation
- Fit to Functional and Non-Functional and Other Requirements
- Implementation Methodology
- Vendor Experience, Expertise and Capability
- Personnel Qualifications
- Support Base

The short-listed bidders, upon receipt of formal notice, may secure the *Bidding Documents (e.g. Request For Proposal, etc.)* ***upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P17,500.00)*** from ***18 to 20 June 2007***. For all qualified parties, the *Pre-Bid Conference* shall be held on ***25 June 2007 (Monday), 10:00 a.m.***, at the aforementioned address.

The *Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)* is ***Forty-five Million Pesos (Php 45,000,000.00)***, **inclusive of all taxes and three (3) years maintenance,** which shall be sourced from the funds of Land Bank of the Philippines. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the opening of the financial proposals.

LBP reserves the right to waive any formality in the responses to the Eligibility requirements and to this invitation. LBP further reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

**(Sgd.) JOSE C. NOGRALES**
Chairman, IT-BAC

(PDI – May 7 & 14, 2007)

# Blair prepares for a subdued exit

BRITISH Prime Minister Tony Blair AFP

LONDON—IT BEGAN WITH AN EFFUSIVE exuberance as Britain's Labor Party came in from 18 years of opposition in 1997 in a landslide won by a bright and young politician called Tony Blair.

Now, a decade later, Blair prepares to leave office burdened by an unpopular war and down in the ratings.

Blair's departure—he is expected to announce the schedule for his last weeks in office on Thursday—has been undermined by a seismic shift in British politics. The separatist Scottish National Party defeated Labor; in Wales, Labor fell back, too; in England, the opposition Conservatives claimed major inroads in running the local councils that provide the foot soldiers in the battle for national office.

In the United States, Blair is remembered as the ally who rallied to America's side after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks only to sacrifice popularity at home in favor of a messianic brand of conviction politics in close alignment with President Bush's.

"The kaleidoscope has been shaken," Blair declared to a conference of the Labor Party in October 2001. "The pieces are in flux. Soon they will settle again. Before they do, let us re-order the world."

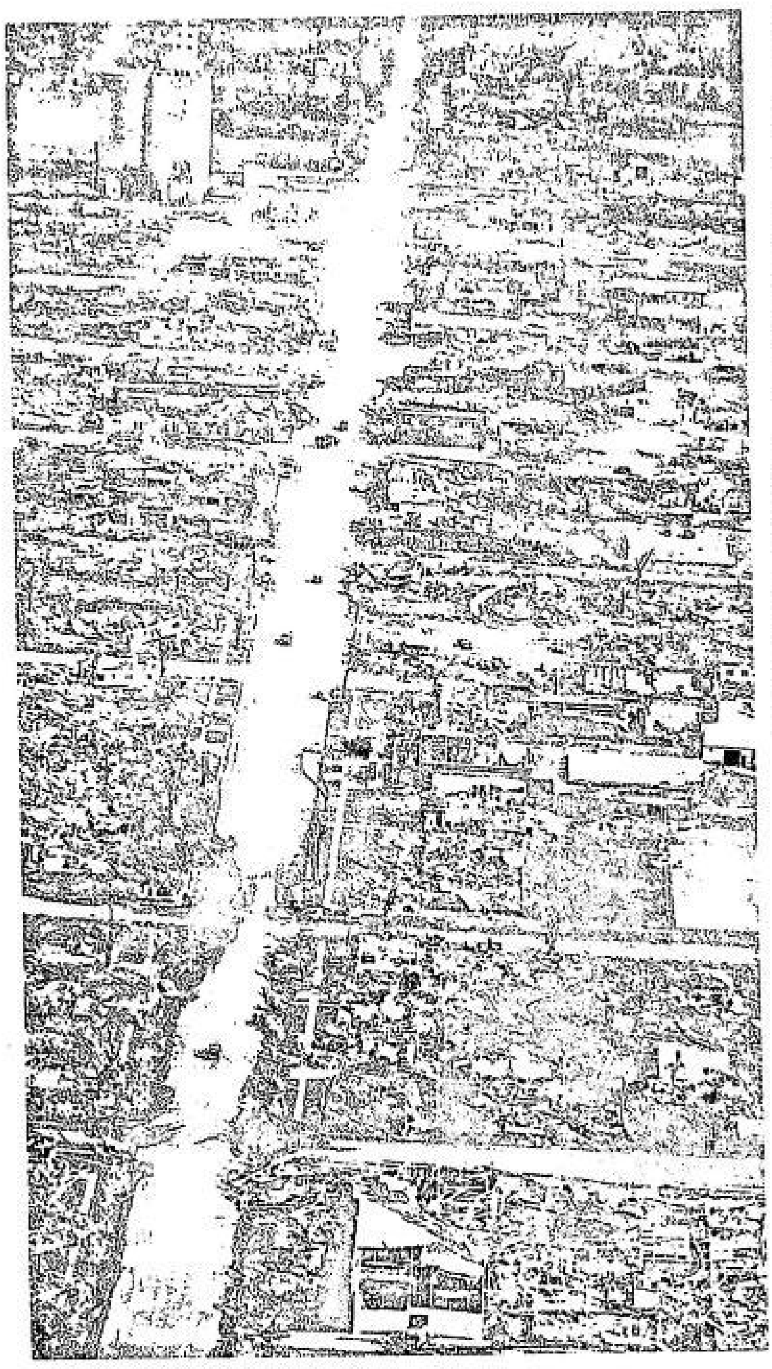
The result of that pledge is on display in Iraq and Afghanistan, where British troops are deployed, and in Britain. The war in Iraq is cited almost universally by Blair's critics as their reason to wish him ill as he leaves office, and they have been punishing his party in the local and regional elections.

But, in the eyes of many Britons, Blair's legacy is far more nuanced, dragged down further by his stumbling efforts to upgrade public education and health care, but elevated by his success in redefining Britain's political center of gravity.

Blair has let it be known that he will set his departure as head of the Labor Party and thus as prime minister for, roughly, the end of June.

He can claim credit for cementing peace in Northern Ireland and shifting the national political debate away from the rugged individualism of Thatcherism and toward a more social democratic acceptance of the virtues of public spending on schools and hospitals. Blair has, some argued, achieved the highest political accolade, converting not just his followers but also his opponents to the notion of a caring society: Even Britain's opposition Conservatives now strive to present themselves as a party of compassion.

But, by most accounts, Blair's legacy is deeply flawed. While he once seemed destined to take his place among Britain's greatest prime ministers, he is now widely regarded as having fallen to a secondary tier after such figures as Winston Churchill, Clement Attlee and Margaret Thatcher. *NYT*



**BUILDINGS are seen flattened or damaged in this aerial photo on May 5, which shows the swath of destruction a tornado cut after it touched down along Main Street in Greensburg, Kan., Friday night, killing nine people.** AP

# Giant tornado leaves 9 dead in US heartland

WASHINGTON—AT LEAST NINE people were killed by a massive tornado that wrecked a small town in Kansas, collapsing a hospital and reducing homes to piles of broken timber, local officials said Saturday.

Six people were killed in Greensburg, Kansas, after the storm made a direct hit on the small prairie town late Friday, said City Administrator Steve Hewitt.

Some 30 people were pulled from the rubble of Kiowa County Memorial Hospital in Greensburg as the storm ripped homes off their foundations and even damaged below-ground shelters, according to reports.

"It is no understatement or overstatement to say that this town has been wiped off the face of the earth," Sen. Pat Roberts, who toured the area on ground and from the air with other Kansas lawmakers, told CNN.

"This is just as bad as it gets." Three other people were killed near Greensburg, officials and media said, while scores were reported injured and dozens hospitalized.

President George W. Bush spoke by telephone with Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and offered any additional federal help that her state might need, an administration official told reporters, requesting anonymity.

"The president's thoughts and prayers are with the people of Greensburg and 'all those who suffered loss and injury," David Almacy, a White House spokesperson, said in a statement.

The US National Weather Service, meanwhile, warned of more severe weather in the central plains region Saturday, and two new tornadoes were reported in Nebraska to the north.

A tornado warning was issued for a huge swath of land touching seven states from northern Texas to South Dakota, the core of the country's "Tornado Alley." Weather service meteorologists warned of "an extremely dangerous and life-threatening situation" for central Nebraska due to the threat of severe tornadoes.

Hewitt said 90 percent of local homes and buildings were destroyed in Greensburg, about 120 miles (200 kilometers) west of Wichita, and communications in the area were severely disrupted.

"This is a huge catastrophe for this small town. My home's gone, my staff's homes are gone," he said in a press conference.

The town's 1,400 residents were evacuated and ordered not to come back as emergency squads continued to comb the wreckage with tractors and dogs to see if any survivors remained.

"The search and rescue continues. We want to make sure we can find everybody," Hewitt said.

Water, electric and gas utilities were all shut off and a curfew was planned from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. on Sunday.

Television images showed the town virtually leveled, with roofs shredded, branches sheared off trees and school buildings wrecked.

"It sucked the door off of our storm shelter," Greensburg resident Kevin Hillhouse told Wichita television KAKE. *AFP*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### 105 militia victims' bodies found in Colombia

BOGOT—Remains of 105 victims of right-wing paramilitaries were found in the southern jungles of Colombia, the biggest such discovery in the country's 4-decade-old guerrilla war, officials said on Saturday. More remains are expected to be found near the 65 graves uncovered late Friday in Putumayo province on the Ecuadorean border. A total of 211 bodies have been recovered from the province since last year, but Friday's find by agents from Colombia's attorney general's office marked the most number of bodies found in a single area. More than 31,000 paramilitaries have disarmed since 2003 under a deal promising reduced jail terms to those who cooperate with investigations into crimes they committed in the name of fighting Marxist rebels. Both the "paras" and the rebels are funded by Colombia's multibillion-dollar cocaine trade and are branded terrorists by Washington. ***Reuters***

### British girl kidnapped in Portugal

MADELAINE AFP

PORTIMAO, PORTUGAL—The parents of a 3-year-old British girl kidnapped during a holiday at a beach resort in Portugal appealed on Saturday for information that could lead to her safe return. A distraught Gerry McCann, standing next to his wife at the resort in the Algarve, thanked Portuguese authorities for their support after they confirmed that Madeleine McCann had been snatched from the family's holiday villa apartment. Earlier on Friday, Guilhermino Encarnacao, head of the judicial police in the Faro area of the Algarve, said police believed Madeleine was still alive and had a drawing of a suspect based on evidence from witnesses. ***Reuters***

### Basque nationalists banned from polls

MADRID—Spain's Supreme Court on Saturday banned hundreds of candidates from contesting upcoming local elections in the northern Basque region on the grounds that their party was a front for the outlawed separatist party Batasuna. The court ruled that 246 supposedly apolitical "citizen lists" which bear the generic label "Abertzale Sozialistak" were set up to serve the interests of Batasuna and should not be allowed to take part in the May 27 elections, as had been requested by Spain's prosecutor general. The court said it based its decision on a law governing political parties which prevents the succession or continuation of a banned party. AFP

### Big oil in tiny Cambodia

SIHANOUKVILLE, CAMBODIA—Still clawing its way out of the ruins of its brutal past, Cambodia has come face to face with an extraordinary new future: It seems to have struck oil. Exploratory drilling began two years ago, and the oil giant Chevron says it has found potentially huge deposits off the southern shore. The company has not made the results known, but together with other likely deposits nearby and with mineral finds being explored onshore, experts say, Cambodia could be a resource-rich nation. Top officials, including Prime Minister Hun Sen, have been feeding the excitement this year, offering extravagantly optimistic estimates that the oil money could start to flow within two to three years. ***NYT***

# Search resumes for Kenya airliner with 114 on board

YAOUNDE—THE SEARCH RESUMED Sunday in a dense Cameroonian forest to locate a missing Kenyan airliner feared crashed during a midnight storm with 114 people on board, officials said.

Shortly after 8 a.m. one French and one Cameroonian military helicopter as well as two military planes resumed flights over the suspected crash area in the remote equatorial forest, an official from Kenya Airways in Douala told AFP.

Hampered by poor weather, Cameroonian helicopters and aircraft searched in vain all day Saturday for any sign of the missing Boeing 737-800 that sent out a distress signal over southern Cameroon shortly after taking off.

The chief executive officer of Kenya Airways on Sunday still spoke of an "accident" and refused to confirm reports the 6-month-old plane had crashed, "until the aircraft is sighted." *AFP*

# *LatAm has half of world's Catholics, but few in Vatican*

VATICAN CITY—LATIN AMERICA, home to nearly half of the world's 1.1 billion Roman Catholics, is seriously under-represented at the Vatican, whose hierarchy is dominated by European prelates.

Four Latin American countries figure among the world's top 10 Catholic countries, beginning with Brazil with 134.2 million faithful, followed by Mexico (92.8 million), Colombia (39.8 million) and Argentina (35 million).

But the College of Cardinals who advise the Pope counts only 31 members from Latin America out of 184, or fewer than one in five, whereas the body includes 94 Europeans, of whom 37 are Italian. Only 18 of the Latin American cardinals are under age 80 and thus eligible to vote for a future Pope.

Only four Latin Americans have positions in the Vatican Curia, or administration.

Colombian Alfonso Lopez Trujillo, 71, heads the Pontifical Council for the Family and has spoken out strongly against gay unions.

His compatriot Dario Castrillon Hoyos, 77, is in charge of dialogue with Catholic traditionalists who want to be allowed to celebrate the old Latin mass.

The former head of the Vatican's Congregation for the Clergy, Castrillon Hoyos is close to the conservative Opus Dei and Legionnaires of Christ movements, both very active in Latin America.

Brazilian Claudio Hummes, 72, more moderate than Castrillon Hoyos, recently succeeded him as the head of the Congregation for the Clergy. An opponent of the military dictatorship in Brazil from 1964 to 1985, he championed the Church's role in defense of the poor but rejected liberation theology.

Finally, Mexico's Javier Lozano Barragan, 74, heads the Vatican office for health care.

A widespread shortage of Catholic priests is especially pronounced in Latin America, where there are an average of 7,500 faithful per priest, compared with the world average of 2,677, according to Vatican figures.

This paucity is reflected in the lack of Latin Americans in the Church hierarchy. *AFP*

# Blast kills 16 Iraqi tribal recruits

BAGHDAD—AT LEAST 16 Iraqi Army recruits were killed Saturday when a suicide bomber exploded at their recruitment center west of Baghdad one day after police found the murdered bodies of seven antiterrorism officers.

Another 21 recruits were wounded in the blast, which took place at an Army base in the predominantly Sunni rural tribal area around Abu Ghraib, said a defense ministry official.

Sunni tribesmen that once fought with the insurgency have been increasingly joining the security services at the urging of their elders to restore stability to their strife-ridden lands.

Interior ministry spokesperson Brig. Gen. Abdel Karim Khalaf told reporters Saturday that thanks to the efforts of the tribes, specifically in the western Al-Anbar province, security forces are now on the offensive.

"For the first time in four years the government is giving an offer to the armed groups to lay down their weapons and give themselves up to the government," he said. *AFP*

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KONTRA SA GATT KONTRA SA EPIRA-PPA

PAID BY: DABARKADS OF TITO SOTTO

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

# Sarkozy favorite as French voters choose new president

**PHOTOGRAPHS** taken on May 4 of socialist party presidential candidate Segolene Royal (left) and her right-wing party UMP's counterpart Nicolas Sarkozy. AFP

PARIS—FRENCH VOTERS CAST BALLOTS SUNDAY IN A presidential election expected to hand victory to rightwinger Nicolas Sarkozy, who has promised a rebirth of the nation through reforms and "hard work." Some 44.5 million voters are eligible to take part in the election pitting Sarkozy, the 52-year-old son of a Hungarian immigrant, against Socialist Segolene Royal, who wants to become France's first woman president.

The election is to choose a successor to Jacques Chirac who is stepping down after 12 years in office and caps a campaign that left voters a stark left-right choice to fix France's problems.

Sarkozy, the clear favorite in public opinion polls, is proposing tax cuts and incentives to work harder, and advocates tougher controls on immigration as part of what he has termed a "clean break" with the politics of the past.

Royal, a 53-year-old former adviser to president Francois Mitterrand, wants to safeguard generous social protection, create jobs and carry out sweeping institutional reform to bring government closer to the people.

With the final polls showing Sarkozy on course to win the election, Royal on Friday warned that his victory could re-ignite violence in the high-immigrant suburbs following riots in late 2005.

Royal has described Sarkozy as a "dangerous" leader who would divide rather than unite the French people and urged voters to show that the polls "were lying." Sarkozy, a former interior minister, is hated by many Arab and African immigrants in the suburbs that were rocked by three weeks of rioting in late 2005 in which hundreds of buildings and thousands of cars were burned.

His tough approach to law and order and pledges to purge the suburbs of the "racaille" or rabble has turned him into an enemy of the poor neighborhoods where many descendants of north African immigrants say they are shut out of mainstream France.

Security has been stepped up in Paris and the suburbs to prevent possible violence in the event of a Sarkozy victory, with some 3,000 police on alert for trouble.

The Journal du Dimanche weekly carried the headline: "An election that will shake up France." Under a clear blue sky, early voters turned out at a polling station on Ile Saint-Louis, in the heart of Paris.

Benoit Labouge, a museum worker, who voted for Royal said he was concerned by France's economic and social problems, saying "France is in a serious state, a dangerous situation." Francois, who declined to give his last name, said he was voting for Sarkozy because he felt that "instinctively" he was better suited for the post. *AFP*

**AYMAN** al-Zawahiri, Osama bin Laden's deputy, shown in new video. AP

# Zawahiri says Iraq bill shows US defeat

DUBAI—AL-QAIDA'S SECOND-IN-COMMAND Ayman al-Zawahiri said a US congressional bill calling for a troop withdrawal from Iraq was proof of Washington's defeat, according to a web video posted on Saturday.

"This bill reflects American failure and frustration," Zawahiri said. "But this bill will deprive us of the opportunity to destroy the American forces which we have caught in a historic trap." A White House spokesperson declined to comment on the video, which comes four days after US President George W. Bush vetoed a $124 billion congressional war-spending measure that would have required a troop pullout from Iraq to begin by Oct. 1.

"We ask Allah that they only get out after losing 200,000 to 300,000 killed, so that we give the blood spillers in Washington and Europe an unforgettable lesson to motivate them to review their entire doctrinal and moral system," Zawahiri said on the video, posted on websites used by Islamists.

Zawahiri denied that al-Qaida and other Sunni Muslim insurgents were stirring up sectarian strife in Iraq, blaming instead the Shiite-led Baghdad government.

"The ones who have stirred up strife in Iraq are those who today are begging the Americans not to leave," said the white-turbaned Zawahiri, sitting next to bookshelves and an assault rifle.

Zawahiri mocked Bush for saying that a US-backed security plan for Baghdad was showing signs of success.

"The success is only for his pocket and Halliburton," he said, referring to the company once headed by Vice President Dick Cheney.

Zawahiri also called on African-American soldiers to refuse to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan, saying America had only changed the "appearance of the shackles and chains" of their slave forefathers. *Reuters*

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# Boom Boom too good for Medina

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

LAS VEGAS—THE COUNTRY HAS A NEW BOXING STAR.

Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista established himself as a force to reckon with in the super bantamweight division yesterday, knocking down Argentina's Sergio Manuel Medina twice to win their 12-round eliminator bout by unanimous decision at the MGM Grand Garden Arena here.

The hard-hitting 20-year-old from Candijay, Bohol bucked a one-point deduction for low blows in the fifth round then came back from a knockdown in the seventh to finish strong and raise his unbeaten record to 23 wins.

Dave Moretti scored the bout 116-108, while the two other judges, CJ Ross and Paul Smith, both saw it 115-109 for Bautista, who earned a title shot against World Boxing Organization super bantam champ Daniel Ponce De Leon of Mexico.

Bautista nullified his one-point deduction by sending Medina down in the sixth with a left to the head. Then in the 11th round, he caught the Argentine with a looping right to the jaw that dropped Medina again.

While Medina quickly got up, he avoided getting felled for good by either backpedaling or clinching.

Medina tasted his first defeat in 29 fights but said he thought the bout was a lot closer than what the final verdict showed.

"I was also groggy in the seventh round. I was hit by good shots," said Bautista in a post-fight interview. "I showed my heart tonight. I'm looking forward to meeting Daniel Ponce De Leon."

"He was too anxious in the beginning. He was stiff. But it was a good win," noted American Freddie Roach, who also trains Filipino star Manny Pacquiao.

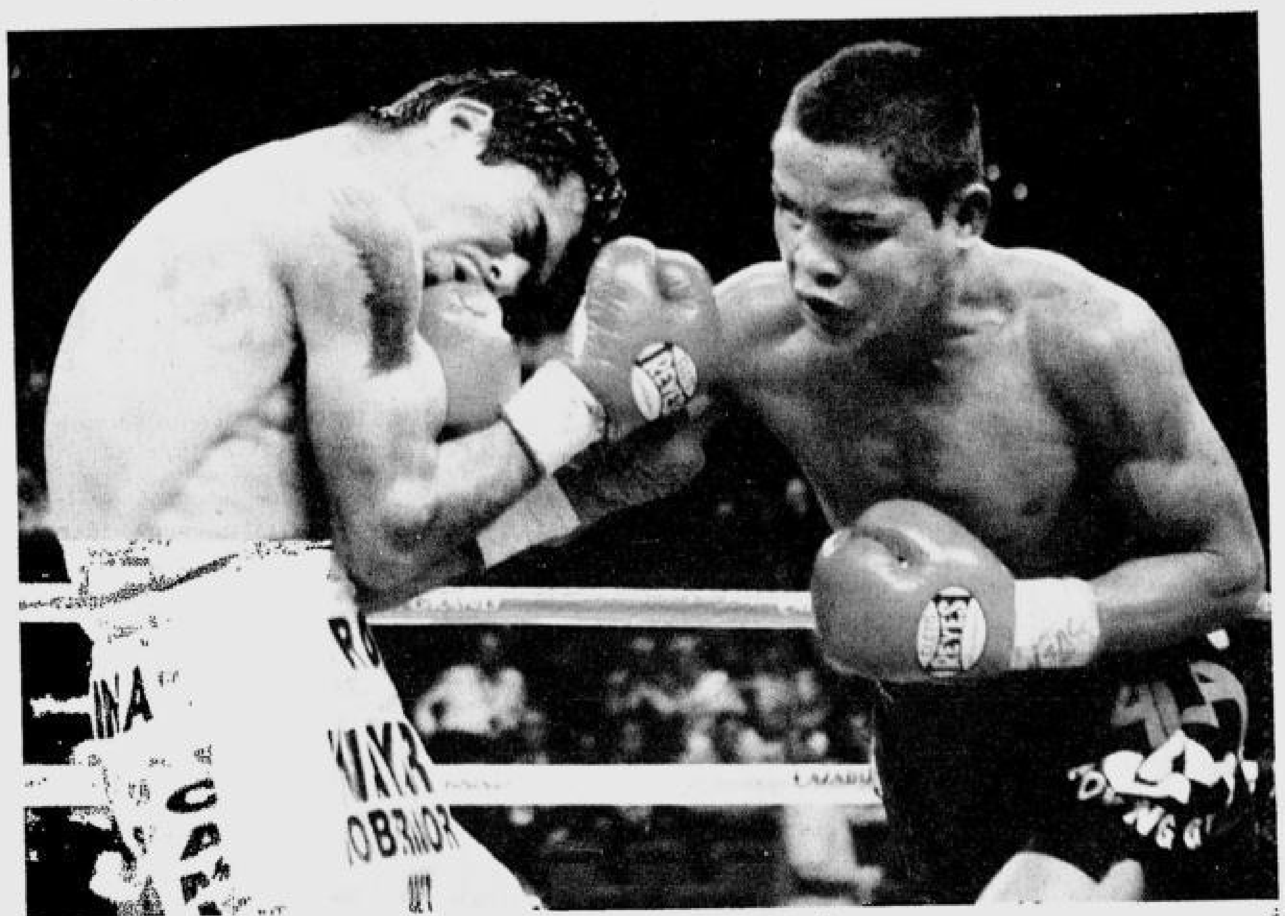
Another Filipino, AJ "Bazooka" Banal, kept his unbeaten slate with a unanimous decision over Mexican Juan Alberto Rosas in another preliminary bout to the Oscar De La Hoya-Floyd Mayweather Jr. world title clash. (*See related story on A31*).

Banal was also deducted a point for low blows in the third round, but the Filipino was comfortably ahead in the end via scores of 78-73, 78-73 and 76-75.

The win improved Banal's immaculate record to 13-0-1 with 10 KO's.

Bautista proved to be the more accurate puncher, landing 223 of 668 blows thrown for a 33 percent accuracy according to Compubox. Medina landed just 185 out of 717 thrown for a 26 percent accuracy.

The Filipino threw 242 jabs and landed 32 while Medina connected on only 13 of 75 jabs. Bautista was also accurate in the power-punching department, landing 191 out of 426 thrown for 45 percent, while Medina only managed to land 172 of 642 for 27 percent.



**REY BAUTISTA** connects with a booming right hand that rocks Sergio Medina. AP

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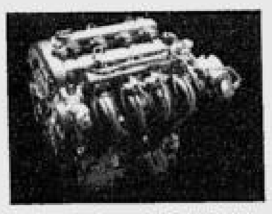

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# New Zealand bet tops Subic men's triathlon

By Jasmine W. Payo

SUBIC—BEN PULHAM OF NEW Zealand ended a string of frustrating finishes by capturing the elite male championship of the 13th Subic Bay International Triathlon yesterday at the Subic Bay Freeport here.

The 26-year-old Pulham exploded away from the lead pack in the final loop of the footrace to rule the 1.5K swim-40K bike-10K run event in one hour, 54 minutes and 58 seconds.

The Philippines' top three triathletes finished together but out of the top 10.

Southeast Asian Games bronze medalist Arland Macasieb finished 15th overall at 2:09:11, followed by national champion George Vilog at 2:09:56 and Mark Candelaria at 2:10:10.

Macasieb failed to match his 10th place finish last year, but noted that his main focus is still the Thailand SEA Games this December.

"Nothing is guaranteed, so it will still be a lot of hard work," said the 31-year-old Macasieb.

Although ranked fifth in New Zealand, Pulham said clinching the top spot had been among the least of his thoughts.

"It's my first big win in my last few races," said Pulham, citing his poor top 40 finishes in recent triathlon meets in Australia and Japan. "I didn't expect to win at all. Anything can happen. I've had meltdowns."

And the unexpected did happen as Pulham, a self-confessed weak swimmer, emerged as one of the frontrunners out of the water and was third at the first transition area.

Harunobu Sato of Japan finished at 1:55:24, while compatriot Hiroki Sugimoto crossed the finish at 1:56:24 to secure third spot.

"In the last 5K, I started winding down on the running," said Pulham.

# Bombs intended for Palaro found

By June Navarro

PLAGUED BY A SERIES OF TRAGEDIES, THE recently concluded 2007 Palarong Pambansa in Koronadal City was luckily spared from an even more tragic ending.

Police authorities made this conclusion after they discovered two home-made bombs which they said was intended to be detonated during the closing ceremony of the Palaro last April 28.

Police senior superintendent Robert Kiunisala yesterday said the rocket-propelled grenade was found on Friday beside a fruit stand in Barangay Uno, Banga town, seven kilometers from Marbel, Koronadal City.

The provincial police director for South Cotabato said the grenade was armed with a mechanical booster for detonation.

"When reports came that there was a bomb, we immediately went to the area and disarmed it," Kiunisala told the INQUIRER.

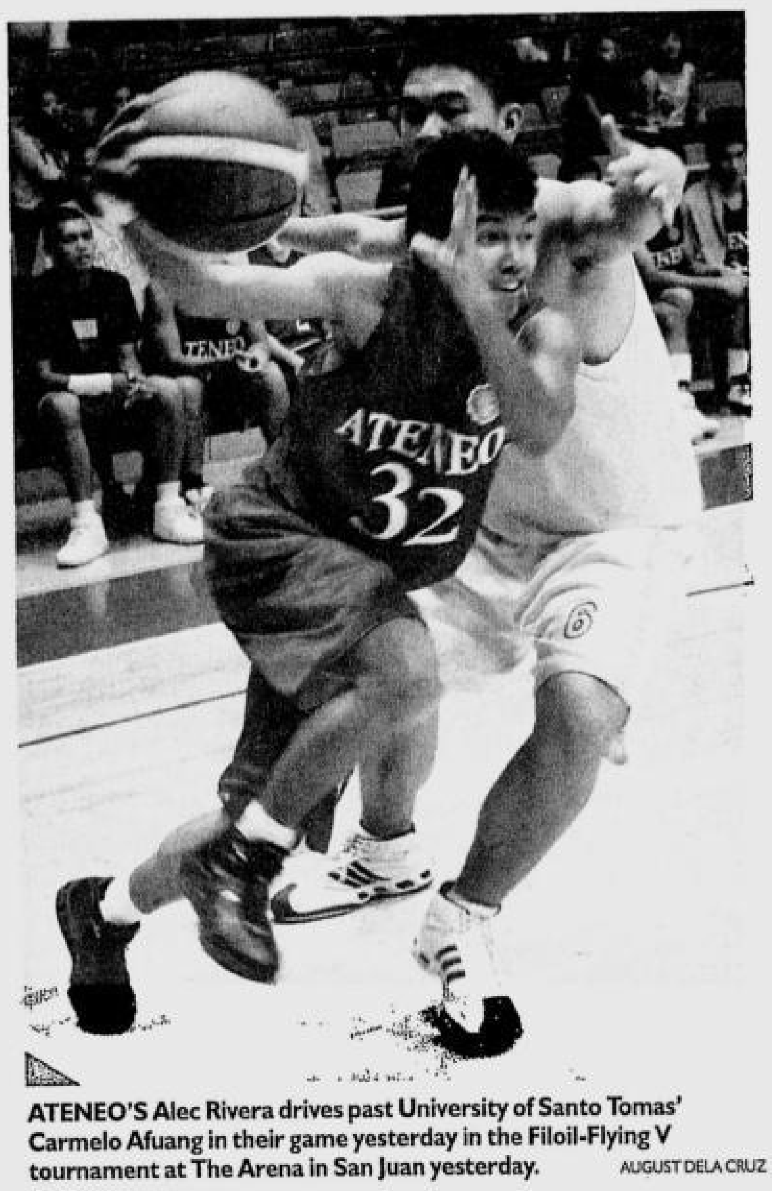
Kiunisala said that two bystanders, Reynan Vargas and Jobert Sibwas, discovered the bomb after the suspected bomber allegedly left it a week earlier.

"The suspect was probably alarmed by the checkpoint that we've set up in the next barangay. So he jumped off his vehicle and left the bomb in the fruit stand wrapped in cellophane," said Kiunisala.

He also confirmed the report of radio broadcaster Henry Araneta that another bomb was found in Tacurong, Sultan Kudarat, a 10-minute drive from Koronadal.

Araneta, dzRH correspondent in Central Mindanao, reported over the weekend that a cellular phone-operated, 81-millimeter mortar bomb was discovered just a couple of days after the closing of the Palaro.

Araneta said the bomb was discovered near a police outpost in front of the Fitmart Mall in Tacurong after the suspected bomber allegedly failed to get through the series of checkpoints going to Marbel.



ATENEO'S Alec Rivera drives past University of Santo Tomas' Carmelo Afuang in their game yesterday in the Filoil-Flying V tournament at The Arena in San Juan yesterday. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

# Cebuana five crushes Dazz

**GAMES TOMORROW (The Arena, San Juan)**
2 p.m.—Henkel Sista vs San Miguel-Magnolia
4 p.m.—CL Perada vs Dazz 'Sang Patak

**CEBUANA LHUILLIER PERA PADALA bounced back from a stinging setback to whip Dazz 'Sang Patak, 74-59, Saturday to gain a share of second place at the end of the first elimination round of the PBL Unity Cup at The Arena in San Juan.**

Paced by Kenneth Bono and Doug Kramer, the Moneymen grabbed a 13-point lead after three quarters, 58-45, then pulled away for good to tie the Burger King Whoopers for second at 4-2.

Harbour Centre, which nipped Cebuana Lhuillier, 84-81, in overtime last Tuesday, finally grabbed the lead at 5-1 with a 73-70 win over bitter rival Toyota Balintawak.

The Road Kings slipped to fourth at 3-3 followed by San Miguel-Magnolia (2-4), Henkel-Sista (2-4) and Dazz (1-6).

Meantime, Harbour's Jason Castro was chosen Player of the Week for his endgame brilliance in the team's last two wins.

Castro beat the buzzer with a triple to lift Harbour past Toyota Balintawak last Saturday. He also scored 17 points, grabbed 9 boards and dished out six assists against the Moneymen to beat Toyota Balintawak's Dennis Daa for the weekly accolade.

The 6-foot-5 Bono led all scorers with 15 points, including two triples in a decisive breakaway by the Moneymen in the third quarter that also saw Emerson Oreta knocking in two of his own.

"I'm very satisfied with this kind of win," said coach Luigi Trillo. "We worked hard in the second quarter and then doubled our effort in the final half."

The erratic Kitchen Specialists compounded their woes with an awful shooting, especially in the final quarter where they made their first field goal in the fourth only with 1:43 left on a jumper by Bigs Raymundo.

**The scores:**

**CL PERA PADALA 74**—Bono 15, Kramer 10, Capus 10, Oreta 10, Dulay 9, Escalona 6, Grijaldo 6, Burtscher 4, Co 2, Sta. Maria 2, Dela Pena 0, Gonzales 0, Dela Cuesta 0, Yee 0, ASolis 0.

**DAZZ 59**—Sanz 11, Larong 9, Almacin 8, Juntilla 8, Labagala 6, Hugnatan 4, Butel 4, Omamdam 4, L. Rodriguez 3, Raymundo 2, Mercado 0, Moreno 0, Cenita 0, J. Rodriguez 0, Bucao 0.

**Quarters:** 18-22; 37-32; 58-45; 74-59

## *Pacman 'ambushed' by text hoax*

FILIPINO BOXING SENSATION MANNY PACquiao became the latest victim of false text messages as news of the fighter falling victim of an ambush reached as far as Las Vegas where the Oscar De La Hoya-Floyd Mayweather title fight was being held. Mobile phone messages said Pacquiao, who is running for a seat in Congress in the May polls, was waylaid by an ambush, with some text messages saying he was fatally wounded. A check with the INQUIRER Mindanao bureau, however, showed that there was no such ambush and that Pacquiao was going about campaigning in his hometown. The ring sensation is expected to hold a press conference in Manila today. ***Inquirer Sports Staff***

# Castro is week's best player

ONE OF THE TRADEMARKS OF A GREAT player is his ability to adapt to a new surrounding and able to deliver at crunch time in a star-studded team.

Jason Castro has done just that for Harbour Centre in his first six games that saw the Batang Pier top the first round of the PBL Unity Cup elimination with a 5-1 card.

Also, Castro immediately dispelled fears that he will play second fiddle to Chico Lanete and Al Vergara as the Silver Cup Most Valuable Player topscored for the team right in their first game.

"Jason best exemplified the team's never-say-die attitude," said Harbour Centre coach Jorge Gallent.

No other player who saw action this week managed to match the intensity and brilliance displayed by Castro and the prolific Harbour guard emerged as the unanimous choice for the PBL Player of the Week for the period from April 30 to March 6.

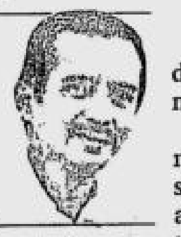
Their last game against bitter rival Toyota Balintawak was a testament to Castro's ability to take charge as Harbour Centre pulled off a stunning 73-70 win—thanks to Castro's magic.

After struggling in the first three quarters, Castro exploded with nine points in the last 10 minutes of play. He capped his heroics with a buzzer-beating triple.

"He is just stepping up when he has to and has been hitting the big shots," added Gallent of Castro, who finished with 12 points and two blocks.

# Manifesto for a very foul season

**BARE EYE**



*Recah Trinidad*

THE AGITATION, UNFURLED IN A BLAZING red banner at center stage, read like a protest against biased, one-sided officiating.

"How many times must democracy ask this family to pay the price?"

No, it was not a silly ballgame, but the result was utterly foul, rotten.

The guilty party should be ejected but, whether it cares or not, the government appears helpless, useless.

Democracy itself had to share the blame in the enforced disappearance of Jonas Burgos, an agricultural activist helping out poor, oppressed farmers in their bitter war against poverty.

***

**Edith Burgos, wife of press freedom icon Joe Burgos and mother of the missing, said people just sat still and stared.**

**Nobody dared ask what was the matter inside an Ever Gotesco eatery shortly after lunch on April 28 as burly men handcuffed and dragged Jonas to a waiting van in Quezon City.**

**Of course, there was a commotion, exclaimed Jose Luis (JL) Burgos in rejecting police claims that his Kuya Jonas did not resist arrest.**

**From what JL had honestly gathered, a gun was poked before his brother was tied up, grabbed by the legs.**

***

Jonas had been heard to protest that he was merely an activist: "*Aktibista lang po ako.*"

Last Friday afternoon, JL choked in trying to hold back tears on the stage before the People Power Monument on Edsa while thanking those who had joined the march for his abducted elder brother.

He tried to hum a line from a protest song: "*Hindi ito ang panahon lumuha, sa mapait na mga ala-ala*" or something to that effect.

It was no time to be engulfed in lyricism, no matter how urgent.

***

**Of course, the Burgoses have every** tragic reason to be saddened and alarmed.

The same should be expected from all those who care for their rights and the safety and well-being of their loved ones and everyone else in this violent, uncertain times.

So who would be next after Jonas Burgos?

Edith Burgos said she had been told that, old as she was, she should stay home and instead nurse her arthritis.

She wore white, was at the forefront of the march organized Friday afternoon by the Amado Hernandez Resource Center, starting from the highway edge of Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong.

***

No, she was no longer asking why.

She was begging for prayers, demanding action from those in power.

Satur Ocampo, who joined the march with front-line freedom fighters like Rene Saguisag, Teddy Casino, Jojo Binay and Renato Constantino Jr. singled out President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as he demanded justice for Jonas Burgos and other victims of enforced abductions and mysterious slays.

Civic leader Nandy Charvet requested security escort from Mandaluyong Police chief Col. Ericson Velasquez and at the same time fielded some 50 chanting marchers in white.

Charvet said he should've been campaigning with lawyer Rene Sta. Maria, who's engaged in a battle against a moneyed traditional politician for the vice mayoralty of Mandaluyong, but that Sta. Maria begged him to join the protest march instead.

***

**Manifestos were passed around as condemnatory speeches rang from a makeshift sound system.**

**One hand-written protest, in the vernacular, may have put it succinctly as it singled out the President as a willing agent, hostage of a big, powerful clique that helps her survive impeachment tries and coup attempts. Here it is:**

*"Sino ang mapapatay mamaya, sino ang susunod na mawawala?*

*Ikaw, ako, pagkatapos ni* Jonas Burgos?

*Matapos ang sunod-sunod na pagpaslang sa mga makabayang tumutulong sa api at maralita, ang biglang pagkawala ni* Jonas *ay tuluyang naglantad sa isang maruming katotohanan.*

*Lumpo ang Pamahalaang* Macapagal Arroyo.

*Wala itong sariling lakas o kapangyarihan na ipatupad ang katamaan sa buong bayan.*

*Ulit ulit na sasabihin ni Presidente* Arroyo *na di niya nais ang mga karahasan at mga patayan sa kanyang kapaligiran.*

*Ngunit madaling paniwalaan na siya ang unahing balakid, isang manika at asong turuang sunod-sunuran sa isang walang diyos na puwersang lihim na naghahari, lumapastangan sa karapatan ng mga tao at nagnanakaw ng yaman ng abang bayan."*

***

The final hymn, Bayan Ko, was sung by the incensed crowd.

It was 5:45 p.m., the marchers had permission to use the freedom monument until six.

A couple of heavily armed cops in black broke away from a big batch that observed the proceedings, wielding armors, from an adjacent edge of Edsa.

Where do they go after the march? the burly cops asked.

Home, they were told, as if the marchers had any choice.

## SPORTSWATCH

### Crusaders derail Explorers, stay unbeaten

PAGADIAN CITY—THE VISITING FIREFLY-ILIGAN CRUSADERS EXTENDED their franchise-best start to 6-0 with a come-from-behind 79-78 victory over the Pagadian Explorers Friday night in the 2007 Spring Cooking Oil-NBC National Cup basketball tournament here. Mayor Lawrence Cruz's Crusaders, also supported by Sen. Ralph Recto, came back from a 69-78 deficit in the final 3:12 to steal the win and remain atop the league. Iligan's defense held Mayor Sammy Co's Explorers scoreless in that stretch. Pagadian dropped to fourth spot with a 5-4 card. Action continues at the Holy Cross gym in Davao City today with Ozamiz facing Montaña Davao at 6 p.m.

**PARTNERS: Cathay Pacific country manager Vivian Lo (second from left) and CATS Motors Inc. president Felix Ang seal a major sponsorship deal for the MercedesTrophy golf tournament on May 21 at Sta. Elena. Alick Liu, assistant to the country manager, and Jan Te-Agoncillo, Cathay assistant marketing manager, are also party to the deal that will send the tournament champions to Queensland, Australia, for the MercedesTrophy Asian Regional Finals.**

### Pacquiao joins PCAP derby

SOME 70 QUALITY FIGHTS WILL SPICE UP THE PINOY COCKERS ASSOCIATION of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby today with boxing champion Manny Pacquiao leading the field. Fights start at 5 p.m. Pacquiao Nelson Salvanera, fresh from winning three derbies in the last three weeks, are heavily favored in the event backed by Gran Matador and B-Meg Derby Ace. Meanwhile, participants in the upcoming PSO-SEC Class '64 5-cock derby must submit official weights (1.8 kg to 2.4 kg) tomorrow. The derby, with P700,000 up for grabs, unfolds May 9. Entry fee is P33,000. The ninth PCAP derby, originally scheduled on May 21, will instead be held on May 12. For inquiries, call 8963545 and 8956475.

### Roligon bares 'Summer Heat'

THE SUMMER HEAT 4-COCK DERBY GETS GOING ON MAY 16, 18 AND 21. Entry fee is P5,500, said hosts Aba Badiola and William Chia. Backyard breeder Zaldy Alonsabe, declared as fastest win champion in the 238-entry King of the Ring derby recently, leads the long list of confirmed participants. Every participant who scores two points in the 2-cock elimination rounds will share in the P100,000 bonus prize. All qualifiers will compete for the title on May 21 (2-cock finals). The event is supported by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone. For inquiries please call 8512275, 8331638 and 8529812.

**ACE: Mark Mendoza shows off a Rado Original Diver watch he won after scoring a hole-in-one in the recent Bill Shaw tournament at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club. Mendoza drained the ace on the par-3 16th hole of the East course using a Honma 6-iron.**

# Mayweather improves to 38-0

**LAS VEGAS—FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. COULDN'T win over the crowd, or even his own father. All he could win was the only thing that really counted Saturday night, his fight against Oscar De La Hoya.**

Boxing's bad boy beat the Golden Boy in one of the richest fights ever, using his superb defensive skills and superior speed to take a 12-round split decision and win the WBC 154-pound title in his first fight at that weight.

Mayweather was favored, 116-112, by judge Chuck Giampa and 115-113 by judge Jerry Roth. Judge Tom Kaczmarek had De La Hoya ahead, 115-113. The Associated Press had Mayweather winning 116-112.

He is now 38-0 while de la Hoya, a champion in six divisions, fell to 38-5.

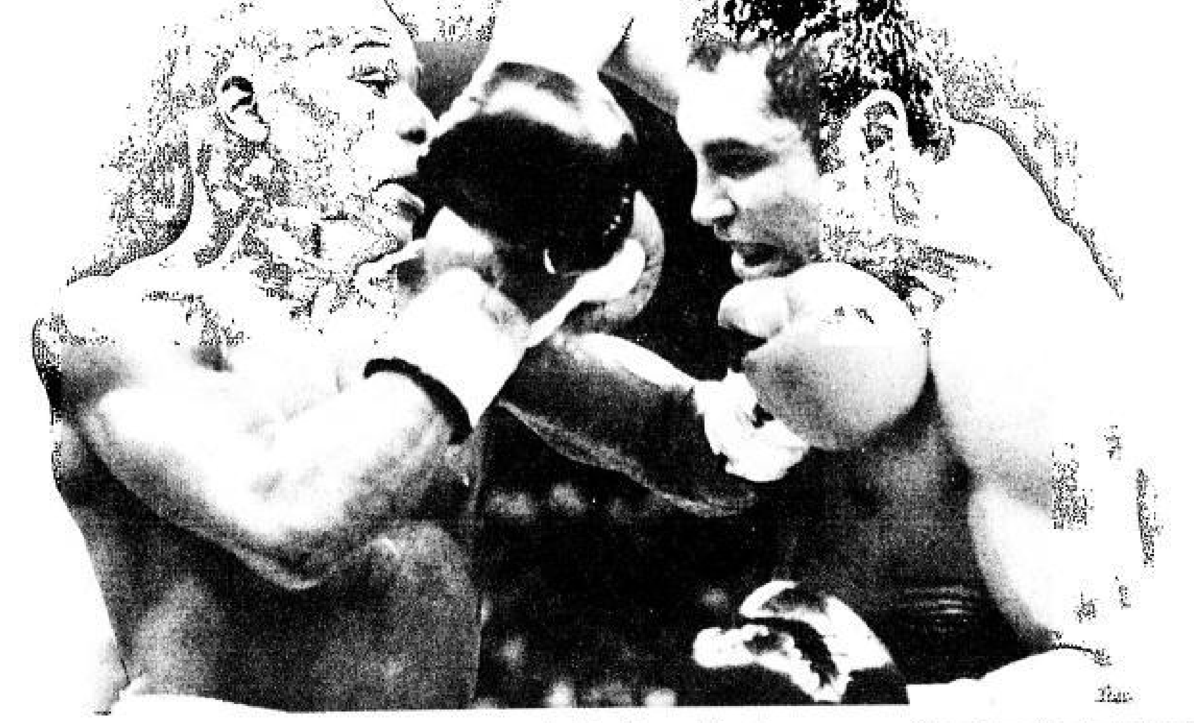
"I was having fun in there. It was a hell of a fight. I just fought the best fighter in our era and I beat him," Mayweather said.

The sellout crowd of 16,200 that paid a record $19 million gate didn't think so, booing the decision just as it had booed Mayweather when he came into the ring wearing a sombrero on Cinco de Mayo.

Mayweather didn't impress the pro-De La Hoya crowd that roared with every punch thrown by their hero, and even Floyd Mayweather Sr. thought his son had lost. But Mayweather landed the harder punches and landed them more often, and that was enough to eke out yet another win.

Both proud champions fought from the opening bell to the end of the final round, which finished with the brawl De La Hoya wanted all along. But it came too late to help De La Hoya, who lost four of the last five rounds on two scorecards.

"I could see I was hurting him," De La Hoya said. "I was pressing the fight, and if I hadn't pressed the fight there would be no fight. I'm a champion, and you have to do more than that to beat a champion." *AP*



**OSCAR De La Hoya tries to make sense of his split-decision loss to Floyd Mayweather Jr. in their WBC super welterweight world championship match.** AP

# Sabbatini up by 1 as Tiger bogeys 18th

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA—Tiger Woods bogeyed the final hole Saturday to hand Rory Sabbatini the third-round lead in the $6.4-million Wachovia Championship.

South Africa's Sabbatini carded an 8-under-par 64, capped by a birdie at 18, matching the Quail Hollow course record.

He had an 11-under total of 205, one better than Woods, who carded a 68.

Fiji's Vijay Singh and American Arron Oberholser both carded 69s to share third on 207.

Woods dropped a shot at 17, then botched the par-4 18th, where he pushed his drive into the right rough and hit his second shot left of the green. He got up and down from 40 yards to limit the damage.

"Rory is playing well right now and I'm going to have to make some birdies tomorrow," Woods said. *AFP*

# Street Sense bags Kentucky

LOUISVILLE—STREET SENSE shattered many of thoroughbred racing's long-held beliefs by winning the Kentucky Derby in convincing fashion on Saturday.

The dark bay colt raced only two times this year prior to his stirring, 2-1/2-length victory over Hard Spun in the 20-horse Derby at Churchill Downs.

Trainer Carl Nafzger tossed aside conventional wisdom that colts need more seasoning before the opening jewel of the Triple Crown series.

"When everybody said 'two races,' there wasn't anything to it," Nafzger said. "There were two races because the horse had already had five, had already learned his lessons, and it was a matter of getting fit and getting his timing."

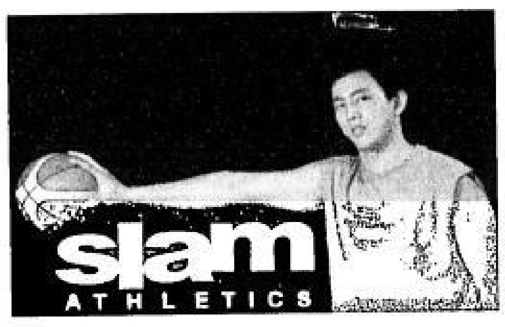
Nafzger's master plan worked beautifully when Street Sense had enough gas in the tank to stage a striking come-from-behind rally. The colt blew by 18 horses to win the Derby going away and earn a $1.45 million paycheck for his handlers.

Street Sense has eight career races and has four wins, two seconds and two thirds. He will now chase the elusive Triple Crown when he heads to the Preakness Stakes on May 19 in Baltimore. *Reuters*

## *Bonds hits No. 744*

SAN FRANCISCO—Barry Bonds belted his 744th career home run Saturday as he continued his progress toward Hank Aaron's all-time record of 755.

Bonds' 10th homer of the season helped lift the Giants to a 9-4 victory over the Philadelphia Phillies in the third of a four-game series. *AFP*



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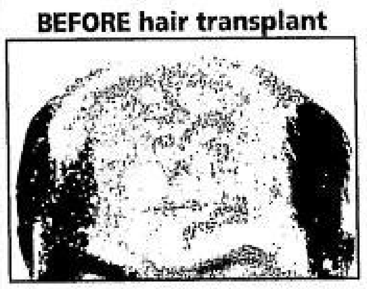

6 mos. AFTER 2,600 grafts
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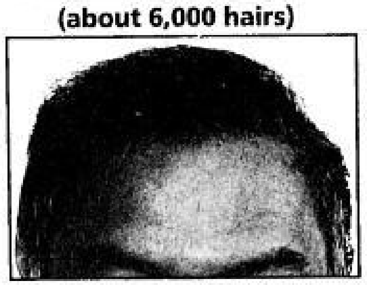

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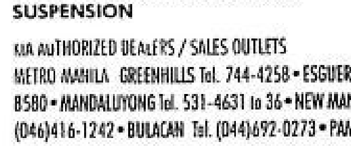
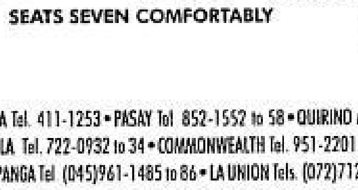
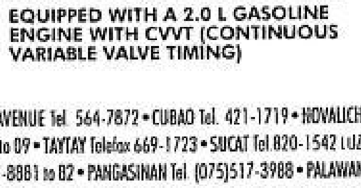


MACPHERSON STRUT TYPE & MULTI LINK WITH COIL SPRING SUSPENSION



SEATS SEVEN COMFORTABLY



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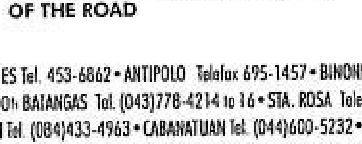

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# Boozer helps Jazz oust Rockets

HOUSTON, TEXAS—CARLOS BOOZER scored 35 points and the Utah Jazz regrouped in the final six minutes to oust the Houston Rockets from the National Basketball Association playoffs on Saturday. After blowing a big lead, the Jazz pulled themselves together to post a 103-99 victory in game seven of the Western Conference first-round series, handing Houston superstar swingman Tracy McGrady another agonizing postseason exit. McGrady, a seven-time All-Star, has never advanced past the first round in the postseason in six attempts. The fifth-seeded Jazz moved past the first round for the first time since 2002. *AFP*

# Pistons rout Bulls

**DETROIT, MICHIGAN—THE DETROIT PIStons let the Chicago Bulls know they aren't about to be stampeded in the second round of the National Basketball Association playoffs.**

Chauncey Billups scored 20 points and Richard Hamilton also added 20 as the Pistons posted a 95-69 blowout victory over the Bulls Saturday in game one of their Eastern Conference semifinal series.

Rasheed Wallace and Tayshaun Prince each had 13 points and Jason Maxiell added 12 off the bench for the Pistons, who improved to 11-0 in Eastern Conference semi-final openers dating to 1986-87.

The Pistons, who led by six after the first quarter, and 13 at the end of both the second and third periods, controlled the game after several first-half bursts which the Bulls were never able to recover.

"It was important for us to set the tone," Pistons coach Flip Saunders said. "We were aggressive offensively and defensively. We did what we were supposed to do."

Chicago, which swept the defending NBA champion Miami Heat in four games in an Eastern Conference first-round matchup, suffered its largest playoff margin of defeat since being beaten by the Cleveland Cavaliers 107-81 in game two of the 1992 conference finals.

Three-pointers by Wallace, Hamilton and Prince vaulted Detroit to a 79-57 lead with 10:03 remaining to give their club a comfortable lead.

Billups connected on 7-of-14 from the floor for the Pistons, who also shot 8-of-18 from 3-point range.

Detroit's margin of victory over the Bulls is the largest by the Pistons in the playoff history of these two teams.

The previous high was a 22-point decision by Detroit, which beat Chicago 101-79 in game three of the 1988 Eastern semi-finals.

Detroit capped an 11-2 spurt with a 3-pointer by Wallace to take a 20-11 lead at the 5:21 mark in the first period. A basket by Ben Wallace and subsequent free throws with 49 seconds left helped the Bulls cut the lead to 29-23 at the end of the quarter.

Kirk Hinrich finished with 15 points for Chicago, but Ben Gordon, who was the second leading postseason scorer (25.5 points) for the Bulls entering this contest, added only seven points. *AFP*

# Young Dragons score in PBA jrs

KETLEY VILLAR scored 16 points to lead Makati-Welcoat to a lopsided 71-32 victory over Caloocan–San Miguel yesterday at the Burlington-PBA Basketball League at the Araneta Coliseum.

Tomas Torres and Oscar Quilatan added 10 points apiece as the defending champions broke the game wide open after just two quarters. The Batang Welcoat Dragons took a 34-11 advantage at halftime.

Ranbil Angelo Tongco tallied seven points to show the way for Batang San Miguel Beermen who had a productive fourth quarter—pouring 16 points there—but with the game already settled.

Makati-Welcoat and Caloocan-SMB are seeing action in Division 2 in the company of HRCSD-Coca-Cola, San Juan-Red Bull and QC-Talk 'N Text in Group B.

Marakina-Alaska, Pateros-Ginebra, Taguig-Purefoods, Antipolo-Sta. Lucia and Manila-Air21 are in Group A.

QC-Talk 'N Text routed San Juan-SMB, 75-22.

# UST spikers triumph

UNIVERSITY OF STO. Tomas, bent on improving on its quarterfinal finish last year, waylaid Imus Institute, 25-4, 25-15, yesterday to kick off its campaign in the Shakey's Girls Volleyball Invitational League at the Blue Eagle Gym.

In the opening match, Pag-ibig Unida School survived Makati Gospel Church New Life Academy, 25-22, 25-18, capitalizing on the opponents' poor service game.

Saint Joseph College Quezon City likewise barged into the win column, downing Assumption Antipolo, 25-20, 25-8.

The top two squads from each group will comprise the eight-team, crossover quarterfinal round of the weekends-only league starting June 24.

*Shelly Dimaculangan*

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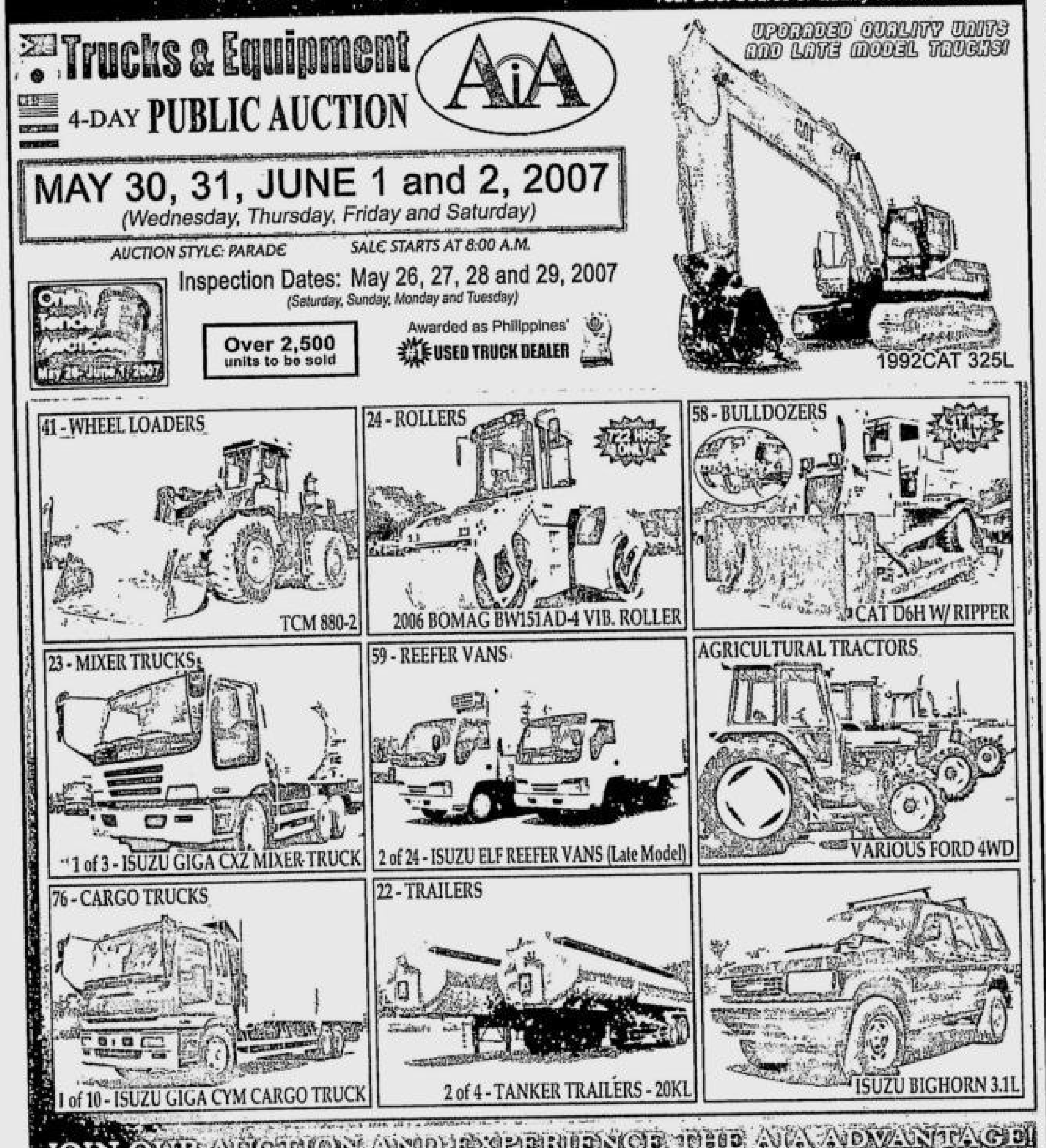

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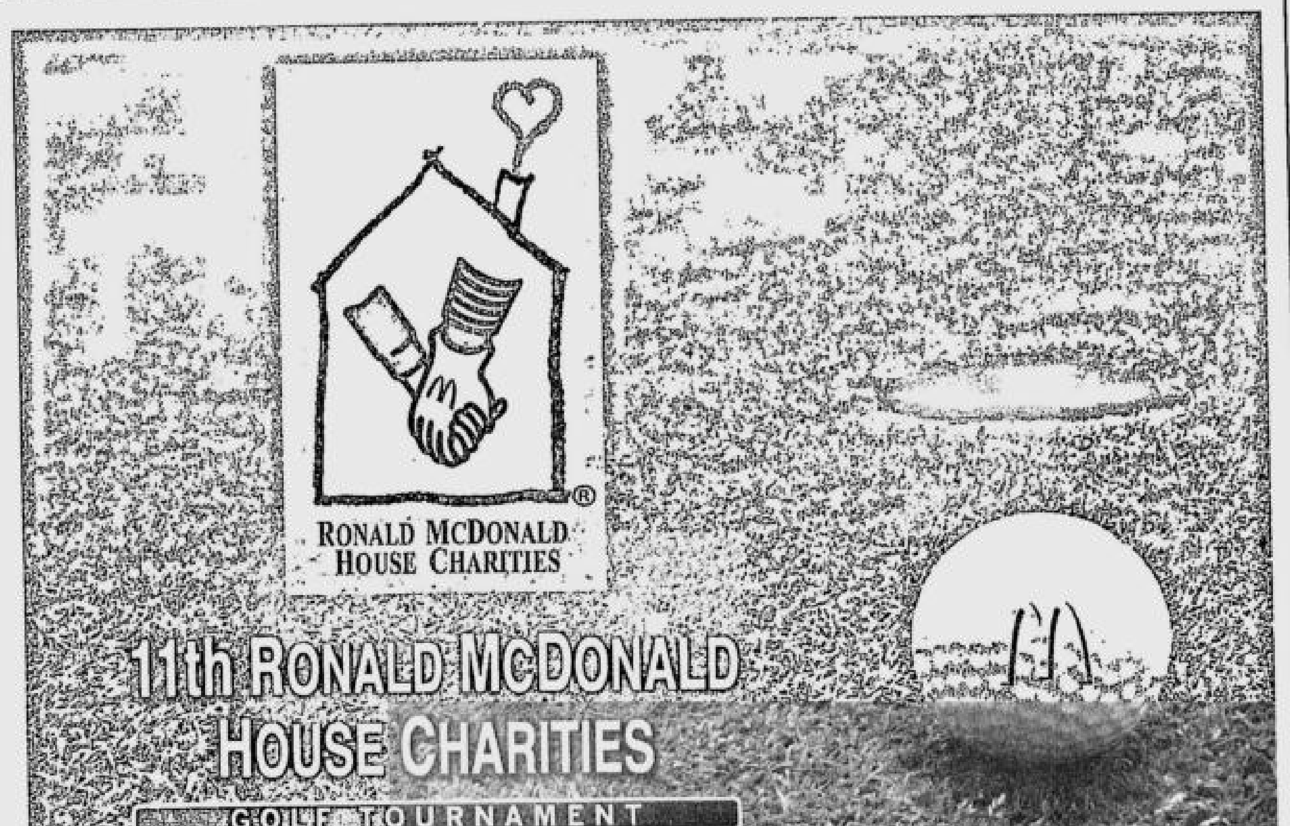

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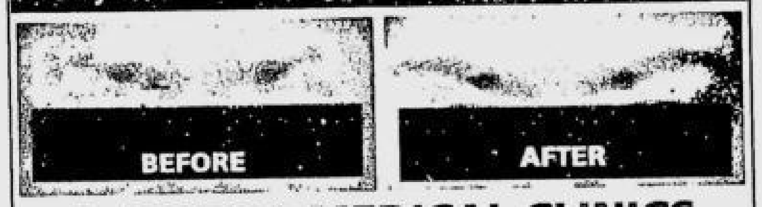

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# SMC to venture into power, other utilities

## Board cites need to find 'new engines of growth'

**By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson**

SAN MIGUEL CORP. IS MAKING A BOLD BID TO FIND new engines of growth after dominating the food and beverage market.

In a preliminary information statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, SMC said its board of directors has approved a plan authorizing the company to invest in new businesses such as power generation or transmission, water and other utilities, mining and infrastructure.

The recommendation to venture into new businesses was made by SMC's financial adviser, Goldman Sachs.

SMC's board said it was timely to "actively consider developing new engines of growth" to further augment the gains realized from nurturing its current core businesses. SMC is the market leader in the Philippine food, beverage and packaging sectors.

INQUIRER sources estimated that SMC would need about $2 billion to be a formidable player in the power industry, which includes generation, distribution and transmission. The sources said SMC could raise this amount by reviving a hybrid debt issue that it earlier shelved, or by other capital-raising options it was currently studying.

SMC plans to seek approval from stockholders during a meeting on June 19 for its plan to foray into non-allied businesses. A vote by stockholders representing at least two-thirds of the outstanding capital stock of the company is required to change the company's business purpose under the Philippine Corporation Code.

As of March 31, companies of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) own 23.9 percent in SMC while companies controlled by SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. hold 17.35 percent. Japan's Kirin Brewery Co. controls 19.95 percent while SM Investments Corp. of mall tycoon Henry Sy hold 10.8 percent. Another 5.6 percent is held by state pension fund Social Security System.

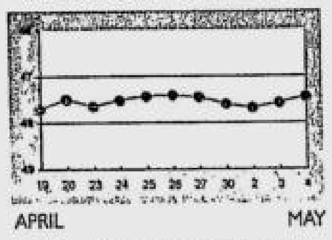
Last year, SMC president Ramon Ang teamed up with SM heir Henry Sy Jr. and Del Monte Pacific managing director Joselito Campos Jr. to form a local consortium called Triratna Holdings Corp. to bid for the 25-year concession of National Transmission Corp. to run the nationwide power grid.

Bidding for the Transco franchise has been put on hold following questions raised on certain technical and legal issues.

SMC and its subsidiaries comprise the biggest publicly listed food, beverage and packaging firm in Southeast Asia. Established in 1890 as a single-product brewery, the group now has more than 100 facilities in the Philippines, Southeast Asia, China and Australia.

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



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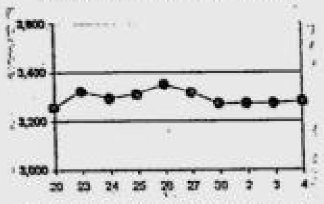
As of 5 p.m., May 4, 2007

### STOCK MARKET

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**

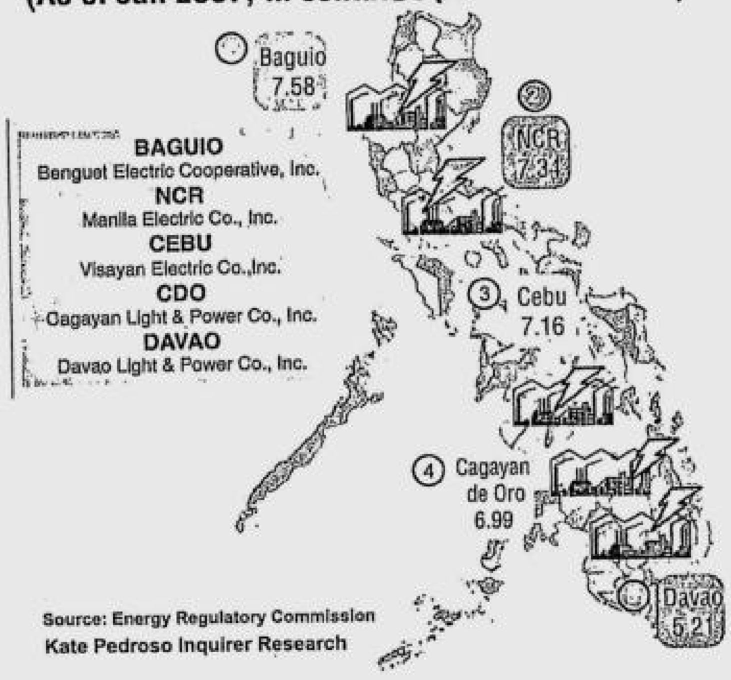


(See stock market report on Page B4)

## INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

### Industrial electricity rates
### (As of Jan 2007, in centavos per kilowatt hour)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Source: Energy Regulatory Commission
Kate Pedroso Inquirer Research

# NFA gets BSP go-ahead to refinance ₱16.5B in debts

**By Amy R. Remo**

CASH-STRAPPED NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY is now asking proposals from the banking sector for the refinancing of its P16.5 billion in long-term loans, Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said last Friday.

The NFA obtained last Thursday the approval of the policy-making Monetary Board of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas for its refinancing program.

In an interview, Yap said the loans were originally structured and financed in 2003 using zero coupon bonds, which are currently used as collateral for NFA's debts.

"We are expecting to generate about P25 billion from the sale of the (zero-coupon) bonds. Part of the refinancing proceeds will be used to retire the P16.5-billion loan," said Yap.

The rest of the proceeds, he said, would be invested in warehouses and drying facilities, such as those for corn.

According to Yap, these drying facilities are important because it will allow farmers to dry and store corn properly and enable them to ship corn by the bulk, thus reducing shipping costs, for instance.

The bond sale is part of NFA's move to reduce its deficits. Monetizing the bondholdings currently used as collateral for debts is also one of the easiest to implement.

"A program I started in NFA a few years ago was to pull all of our short-term debts into long-term. We set aside our credit lines to buy Philippine debt paper and used these debt paper to get financing," Yap said earlier.

"So today if we discount them and monetize all of those securities, I understand we would earn P4-P5 billion, which we could set aside for retiring some loans," he said.

Years ago when the national government scrimped on giving sovereign guarantees to government-owned or -controlled corporations to better control its contingent liabili-

NFA/ B8

## Lackluster trading seen

STOCK TRADING IS FORECAST TO BE within a tight range ahead of the May 14 mid-term elections.

AB Capital Securities said in a weekly note to clients that the market could trade within 3,200-3,300 as investors stay on the sidelines awaiting the outcome of next week's elections.

It added that mixed economic data were also providing a tentative outlook on interest rates.

"Earlier, investors were worried about interest rates bottoming out and eventually rising. However, such concerns eased with the lower-than-expected inflation data that came out last Friday. Abroad, there continues to be strong global economic growth with inflation also remaining tame. Domestic corporate fundamentals remain very positive with multiple years of double-digit earnings growth and this can continue up to next year," AB Capital said.

Conrado Bate, president at CitisecOnline.com, said the main event for the market next week would be the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' announcement by May 10 of the details on how it would mop up excess money circulating in the economy.

"The central bank's stated objective of siphoning off the financial system's excess liquidity ahead of the local elections has also been interpreted as the beginning of rising interest rates by the market," AB Capital Securities said.

SHARES/ B3

## IN THIS ISSUE

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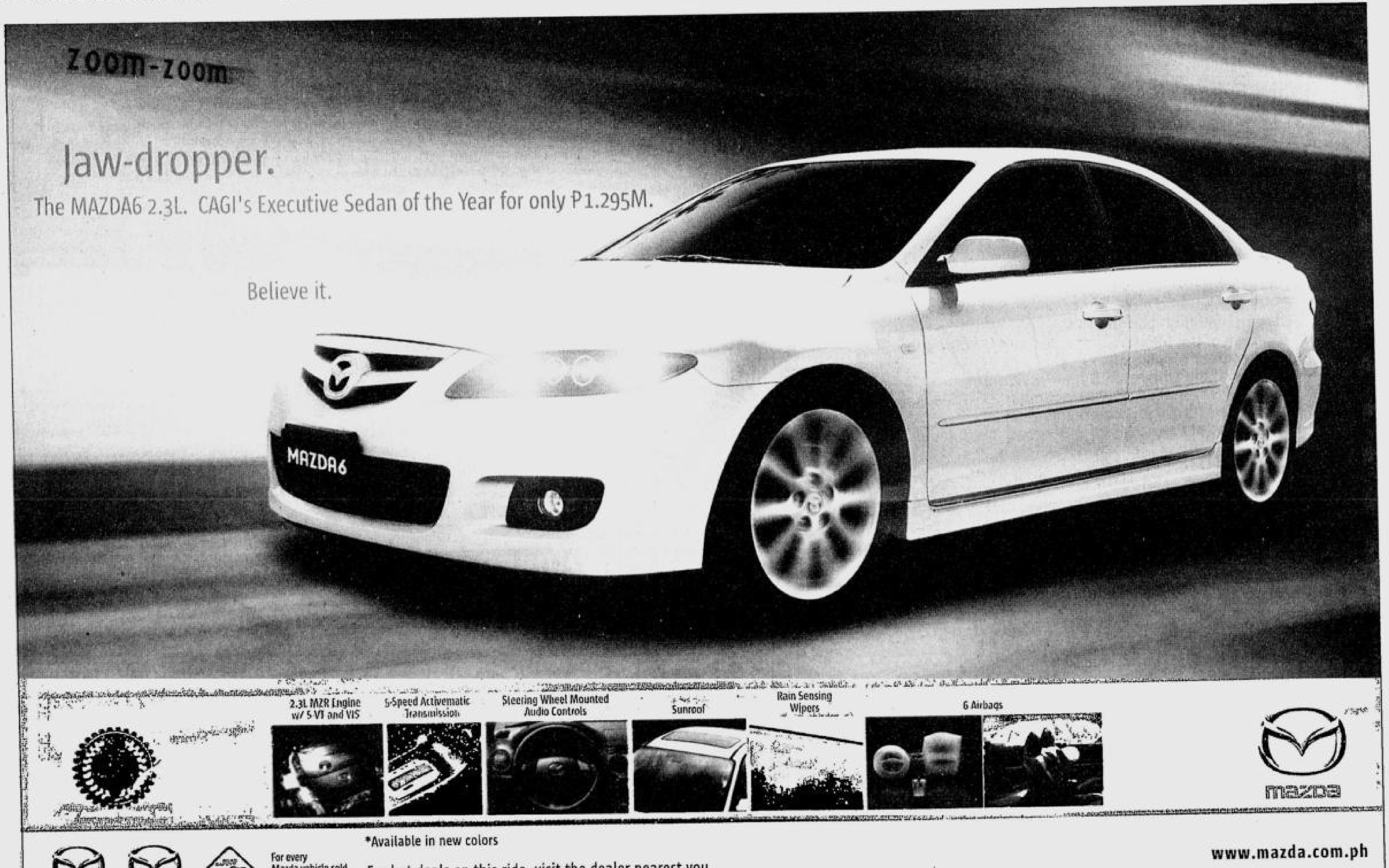

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# Agri chief pushes infra projects in northern Luzon growth area

By Amy R. Remo

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY ARTHUR C. Yap has pressed for the funding and completion of seven "ready-to-go" infrastructure projects in the Northern Luzon Agribusiness Quadrangle (NLAQ).

At the sidelines of the 2nd National Government Infrastructure Forum last week, Yap cited the urgency of these projects and their significance to agricultural expansion.

"There is no future in lowering prices of agricultural commodities such as corn, if we don't have sufficient physical infrastructure," said Yap, who is in charge of the NLAQ project.

Infrastructure developments in the NLAQ super-region would include rehabilitating existing facilities and constructing new irrigation systems, establishing post-harvest drying facilities, repairing and building farm-to-market roads, and providing technical assistance and production support services to farmers.

The NLAQ super-region produces 65 percent of the country's vegetable requirements. It also accounts for 26 percent of the Philippines' corn supply.

The region is made up of the provinces in Cordillera, Ilocos and Cagayan as well as parts of Central Luzon such as Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Zambales.

Among the projects presented by Yap during the infrastructure forum were the Agno River integrated irrigation plan worth P7.98 billion, the Casecnan multipurpose project worth P6.75 billion, and the Banaoang irrigation venture costing P2.58 billion.

"These projects are estimated to have a return on investment of more than 15 percent (a year)," Yap said.

He said adequate infrastructure could also help minimize post-harvest losses, currently at 15 percent of total harvests. For instance, Yap said that if these losses could be cut to 10 percent or even less for corn, the country could possibly start exporting.

Yap also cited a need for a special court that would address concerns or legal issues regarding right-of-way since these problems usually hamper the implementation of many infrastructure projects.

# Real estate on the rise

## NO FREE LUNCH

*Cielito F. Habito*

UNTIL EARLY LAST YEAR, COMMUNICATIONS, particularly telecommunications services, was the single fastest-growing industry within the services sector. In my economic briefings, I liked to say that the Filipinos' love affair with text messaging was driving the Philippine economy, and that wasn't too much of an exaggeration then.

### New leader

Well, not anymore. In the past three quarters, growth in communications had slowed down to single-digit levels, after enjoying rapid double-digit growth over much of the past decade. Whether this is a long term trend is too early to tell, but at the moment, real estate and property development has dislodged communications as the growth leader in the services sector.

In the fourth quarter of last year, the real property sector posted a hefty 22.7-percent growth in real terms—now the highest-growing sub-sector within services. In the quarter previous to that, the growth rate was 26.2 percent. Against an average real growth rate of 16 percent in 2004 and 2005, real estate growth appears to be picking up lately. It has come to a point that renewed worries are now being heard that a real property bubble similar to what led to the 1997 Asian financial crisis may be looming.

A notable indicator is the recent upsurge in real property loans being granted by the Philippine banking system. Ten years ago, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) saw it fit to impose limits on the real property lending of banks. Is it time to revisit those limits again?

### BPO-driven

What is driving the recent growth in the real estate sector? There is much casual evidence pointing to the surge in office space demands from the call center industry, and from the business process outsourcing (BPO) sector in general, as a primary source of the growth. Indeed, non-factor services exports, which prominently include BPOs, grew by a whopping 36 percent last year.

We hear of the tight office space market in the Ortigas and Makati areas, for example, where call centers and other BPOs are snapping up office spaces faster than they can be built. And this is an industry that is not confined to Metro Manila, either. Major centers around the country are seeing a similar boom in these types of businesses, that include backroom accounting, medical and legal transcription, graphic and architectural design, animation, research and a number of others.

There is an interesting sidelight here: the "research" part of it includes the not-so-honest business of made-to-order term papers and thesis manuscripts for lazy students overseas—a business, I hear from a friend who is actually into it, that has a large and growing market. For decades, this "cottage industry" for manufactured or recycled research papers had been known to students to be thriving in the Claro M. Recto Avenue area in Manila. Guess what: the industry has now gone global—thanks to Internet search engines like Google and Yahoo! coupled with computer cut-and-paste technology, which make it very easy to come up with a credible term paper in whatever subject you can think of, within minutes.

### Housing demand

Adding to the BPO office space demand is the persistent unmet demand for housing, especially in the low- to medium-income segment. While the market for high-end condominium housing units appears to have tapered, growing numbers of Filipino families are in need of homes. The demand from OFW families is particularly on the rise, with anecdotal evidence pointing to a growing portion of remittances now going into housing investments. Property developers are taking heed, including those that traditionally focused on the higher end of the market. The big names in the industry have increasingly gone into housing development projects targeted at this rapidly growing market segment.

Helping this trend is the current environment of low interest rates, which has made housing finance much more accessible than before. For this we have the improved government fiscal situation and surging money supplies worldwide to thank. Banks no longer see it as attractive to lend to the government as before via investments in government securities and treasury bills whose yields are now much lower.

### No bubble

At the same time, demand for bank loans from the traditional corporate borrowers has slowed down, with deepening capital markets and expanded financing options. Thus, the banks have turned to consumer financing in a big way—including home and auto financing—which is good news to the housing industry. Adding to all this is the growing demand for property development from the retirement estate industry, spurred by aging populations in rich countries. And then there are the shopping malls sprouting out all over, thanks again in large part to consumer purchasing power fueled by OFW money.

All these tell me that the recent surge in real estate development is not quite the same as the bubble that led to the 1997 collapse. It appears that brisk growth in the sector could be around for a while—and this is good news for the Philippine economy.

*Comments are welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

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**First Philippine Holdings Corporation**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING**

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Stockholders Meeting of First Philippine Holdings Corporation will be held on **Monday, May 21, 2007** at **3:00 p.m.** at the **Meralco Theater**, Lopez Building, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City.

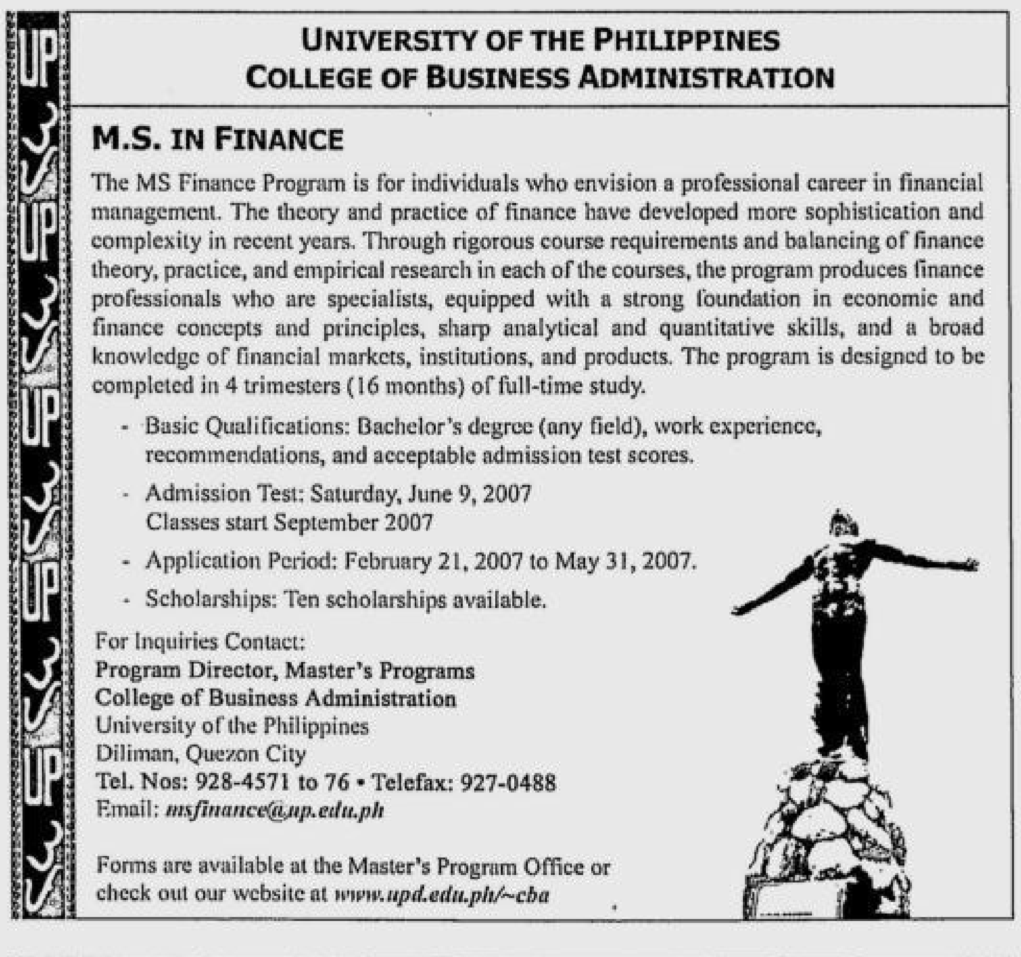
The Agenda of the meeting are as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Required Notice
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Approval of the Minutes of the June 14, 2006 Annual Stockholders Meeting
5. Reports of the Chairman & the President
6. Approval/Ratification of the December 31, 2006 Reports and the Audited Financial Statements
7. Ratification of the Acts of the Board, of the Executive Committee and of Management
8. Election of Directors
9. Amendment of Articles Second, Fourth and Sixth of the Articles of Incorporation
10. Amendment of the following provisions of the By-Laws:
    - Article I, Section 1 and Section 7
    - Article II, Section 1, Section 4, Section 6 & Section 8 (new provision)
    - Article III, Section 4, Section 5, Section 7 & Section 9
    - Article IV
    - Article VI, Section 1
    - Article VII, Section 5
11. Appointment of External Auditors
12. Other Matters
13. Adjournment

For the purpose of the meeting, only stockholders of record as of March 27, 2007 are entitled to attend and to vote in the said meeting.

The deadline for submission of proxy is May 11, 2007. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present some form of identification, such as passport, driver's license or company I.D. Registration will start at 2:00 p.m.

(SGD.) **ENRIQUE I. QUIASON**
Corporate Secretary



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# Lackluster trading seen

From page B1

"These events have resulted in a sell-down in interest-sensitive issues this week, particularly banking and property issues," it pointed out.

Fitzgerald Aclan of BDO Trust said that slightly higher interest rates, which usually dampen investments in the stock market, would not be enough to discourage investors from taking up initial public offerings.

"Even if interest rates go up by 20 basis points (from present levels), I don't think there would be any impact on the market, unless it rises on a sustained basis. Rates are still at the low-end of their historical levels," Aclan said. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

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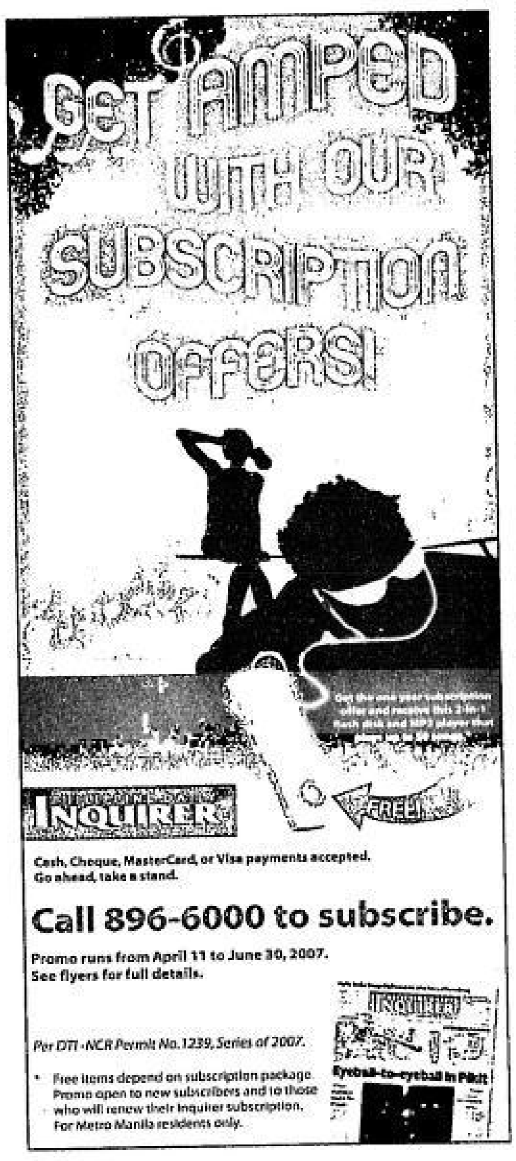
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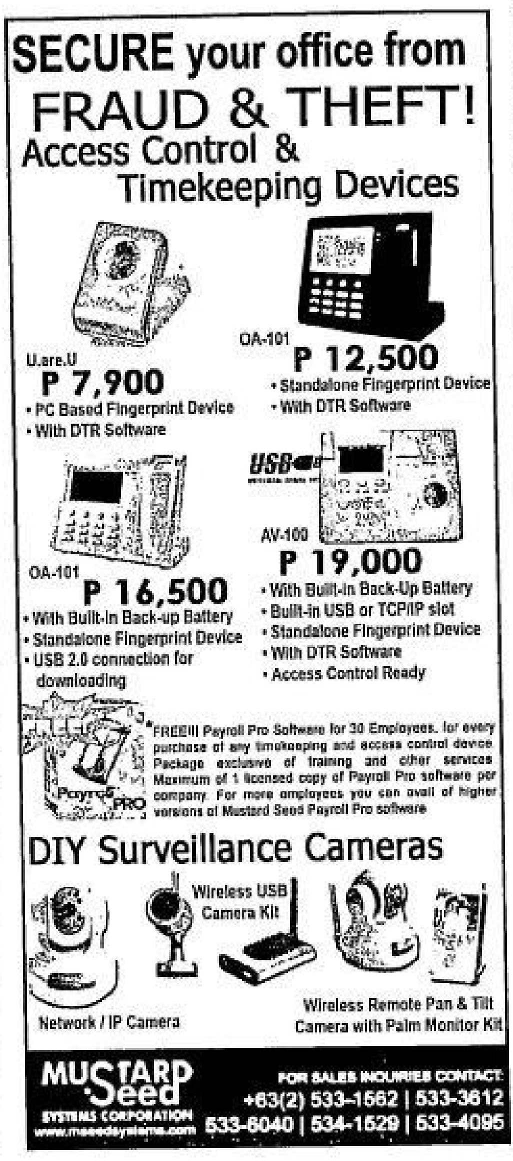
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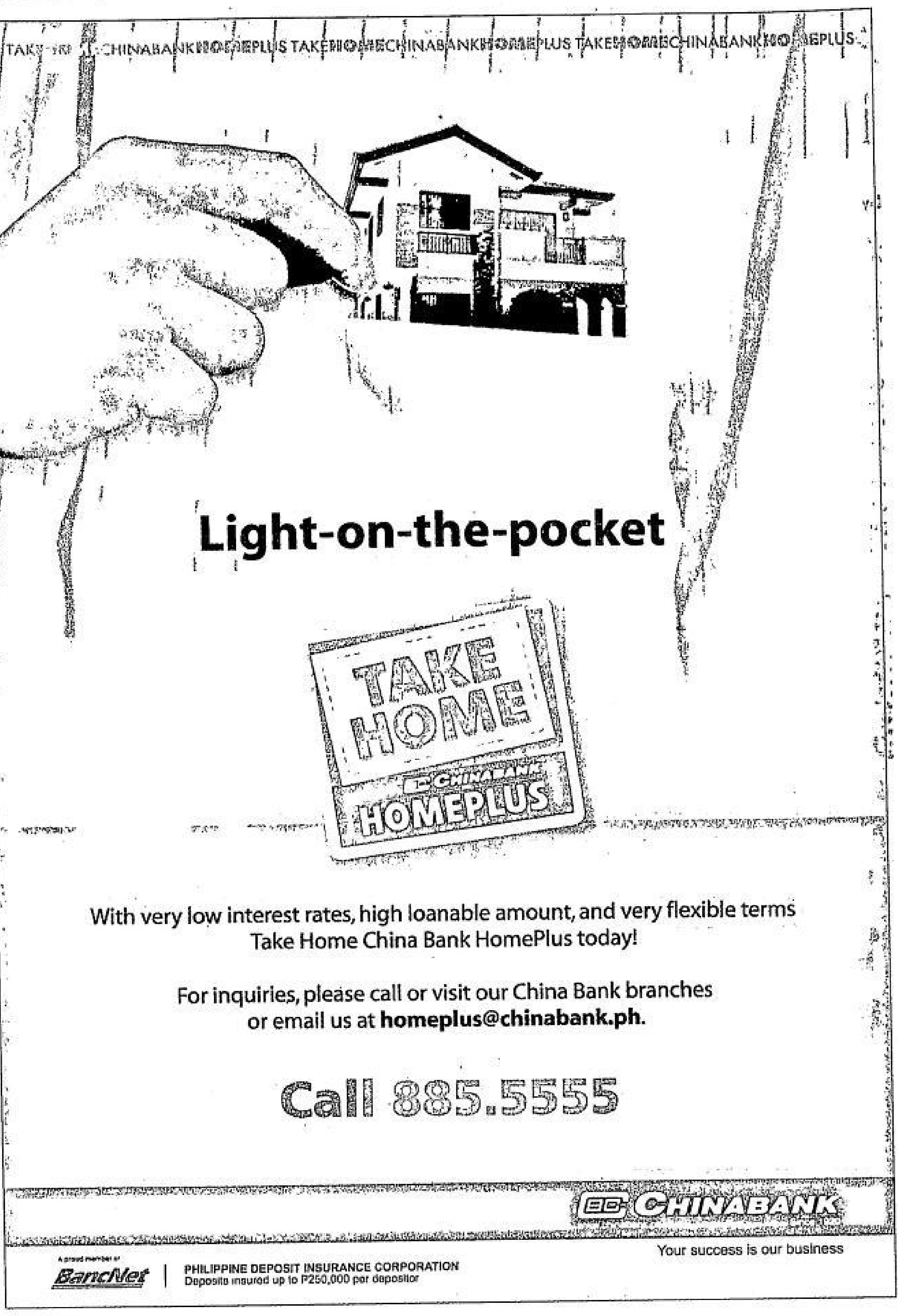
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# TVI Pacific says Tinago drilling results encouraging

**By Ronnel W. Domingo**

CANADIAN MINING FIRM TVI Pacific Inc. last week said its Philippine affiliate had received 'further positive' assay results from ongoing exploration drillings in the Balabag gold and silver prospect in Zamboanga del Sur.

Drillings are being made on the Tinago-Miswi-Lalab vein system, 75 kilometers from TVI Resource Development (Philippines) Inc.'s Canatuan mine in Zamboanga del Norte, which is already producing gold and silver.

In a statement, the company said the drilling program was designed to determine the boundaries of the gold vein system as well as the consistency and continuity of reported mineral values.

Clifford M. James, TVI president and chief executive, said a preliminary scoping study aimed at assessing the Tinago-Miswi-Lalab mineralized zone was underway and was expected to be completed in the second half of 2007.

The latest information was the result of an advanced infill drilling with holes spaced at 25-meter intervals.

Infill drilling refers to the drilling of additional holes within the defined outline of a mineral deposit for the purpose of increasing reserves.

Data showed gold concentration of between 1.01 grams and 3.35 grams per ton of ore, at depths between 11 meters and 31 meters below the surface.

In the same range of depth, silver was found to be present at between 168.66 grams and 244.51 grams per ton.

"Company management considers these results encouraging," James said. "The infill drilling program is an important step, as we move the Balabag property forward in our overall portfolio."

He said the next step would be a scoping-level evaluation on the Tinago-Miswi-Lalab system, which would be required to help the company in determining whether to proceed to a mining feasibility study.

According to TVI, the Tinago vein appears to be the largest and more strongly mineralized structure at Balabag.

The Miswi-Lalab twin vein system is smaller and thinner and appears somewhat like a smaller version of the Tinago vein.

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| CELEBRITY SPORTS | 120K | CLUB FILIPINO | 80K |
| CLUB PUNTA FUEGO | 370K | CC CLUB @ TAGAYTAY | 280K |
| CC CLUB @ TAGAYTAY | 300K | EAGLERIDGE A | 140K |
| EAGLERIDGE B | 250K | EASTRIDGE B | 130K |
| EAGLERIDGE C | 350K | FONTANA C | PLS. CALL |
| EASTRIDGE | 225K | FOREST HILLS B | 150K |
| MAKATI SPORTS | 180K | MAKATI SPORTS A | 180K |
| MANILA YACHT CLUB IND. | 200K | MANILA GOLF CORP | PLS. CALL |
| METROCLUB A | 140K | MANILA GOLF IND | PLS. CALL |
| MIMOSA C-3 | 600K | MANILA POLO CLUB | 3.150M |
| ORCHARD C | 330K | MIMOSA C-1 | 210K |
| QUEZON CITY SPORTS | 140K | MONTEMAR | 30K |
| SPLENDIDO A | 150K | RIVIERA GOLF A | 60K |
| STA. ELENA B | 2.2M | SPA & LODGE | 450K |
| SUBIC BAY GOLF CLUB | 100K | STA. ELENA A (URGENT) | 1.5M |
| VALLE VERDE-IND | 90K | THE COUNTRY CLUB | PLS. CALL |
| TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS | 650K | VALLE VERDE-IND. | 80K |
| OTHERS | PLS CALL | VALLEY GOLF | 180K |

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| Alta Vista A/B*/Corp.** | - | 300,000/Pls. Call* |
| Baguio Country Club | 600,000 | 850,000 |
| Camp John Hay | 330,000 | 250,000 |
| Canlubang Golf | 500,000 | 400,000 |
| Canyon Woods | 120,000 | - |
| Capital Hills | 40,000 | - |
| Cebu Country Club | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| Celebrity Sports | Pls. Call | - |
| City Sports Cebu | - | 360,000 |
| Club Filipino | 90,000 | Pls. Call |
| Eagleridge A/B*/C** | 170,000/Pls. Call*/Pls. Call** | 140,000/200,000* |
| Eastridge A/B* | 150,000* | 60,000/130,000* |
| Evercrest | 65,000 | - |
| Fairways & Bluewater | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| Forest Hills A/B*/C** | 90,000/170,000* | 120,000* |
| Luisita Golf B | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| Manila Golf Corporate | Pls. Call | 18,000,000 |
| Manila Golf Individual | Pls. Call | 13,000,000 |
| Manila Polo | Pls. Call | 3,050,000 |
| Manila Southwoods A/B* | 300,000/Pls. Call* | 250,000 |
| Makati Sports Club A/B* | 200,000/230,000* | Pls. Call |
| Manila Yacht Club Ind. | 200,000 | - |
| Metropolitan Club A/B* | 160,000 | - |
| Mimosa C1/C2*/C3** | 220,000 | 180,000 |
| Mt. Malarayat A | 180,000 | - |
| Orchard A/B*/C** | 150,000/Pls. Call*/350,000** | 150,000 |
| Punta Fuego | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| Quezon City Sports Club | 170,000 | Pls. Call |
| Riviera Golf A/B*/C** | 80,000/170,000*/250,000** | Pls. Call* |
| Rockwell Leisure Club | Pls. Call | 230,000 |
| Royale Tagaytay CC | 65,000 | - |
| Sherwood A/B*/C** | 70,000/170,000* | 100,000* |
| Splendido Taal | 200,000 | Pls. Call |
| Sta. Elena Golf A/B* | Pls. Call | 1,500,000 |
| Subic Golf | 180,000 | - |
| Summit Point A | 200,000 | - |
| The Palms Country Club | 300,000 | Pls. Call |
| Country Club at Tagaytay Highlands | 380,000 | - |
| Tagaytay Highlands | 700,000 | 840,000 |
| Tagaytay Midlands | Pls. Call | Pls. Call |
| The Country Club | 2,000,000 | - |
| Tower Club A/B* | 150,000/180,000* | - |
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| Valle Verde Ind. | 100,000 | - |
| Wack Wack Golf | 9,000,000 | 8,200,000 |

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| ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 1,200,000 | 1,050,000 |
| ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B" | 1,300,000 | 1,100,000 |
| BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB | 600,000 | 550,000 |
| CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB "B" | - | 50,000 |
| CAMP JOHN HAY | 330,000 | 280,000 |
| CANLUBANG | 470,000 | 430,000 |
| CANYON WOODS | 100,000 | 70,000 |
| CAPITOL HILLS | 40,000 | - |
| CEBU COUNTRY CLUB | - | 1,760,000 |
| CELEBRITY SPORTS CLUB | 120,000 | 100,000 |
| CLUB FILIPINO | 100,000 | 80,000 |
| EAGLERIDGE "B" | 250,000 | - |
| EASTRIDGE "B" | 130,000 | 100,000 |
| FOREST HILLS "A" | 85,000 | - |
| LUISITA GOLF "A" | 350,000 | 270,000 |
| MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A" | 200,000 | 180,000 |
| MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B" | 230,000 | 180,000 |
| MANILA GOLF (CORP) | - | 17,000,000 |
| MANILA GOLF (IND) | - | 16,000,000 |
| MANILA POLO | Please Call | Please Call |
| MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A" | 300,000 | - |
| MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B" | 700,000 | 630,000 |
| MANILA YACHT CLUB | 200,000 | 150,000 |
| MIMOSA (IND) | 200,000 | - |
| MT. MALARAYAT GOLD "A" | 170,000 | - |
| ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "A" | 180,000 | 150,000 |
| ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "B" | 340,000 | - |
| ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C" | 350,000 | - |
| QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB | 145,000 | 125,000 |
| ROCKWELL CLUB | 300,000 | 220,000 |
| SPA & LODGE | Please Call | 450,000 |
| STA. ELENA "A" | - | 1,500,000 |
| TAGAYTAY COUNTRY CLUB | 300,000 | 270,000 |
| TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS | 700,000 | 650,000 |
| TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS | 670,000 | 620,000 |
| THE PALMS COUNTRY CLUB "A" | 380,000 | 330,000 |
| VALLE VERDE (IND) | 100,000 | - |
| VALLEY GOLF | Please Call | 200,000 |
| WACK WACK GOLF CLUB | - | 8,000,000 |

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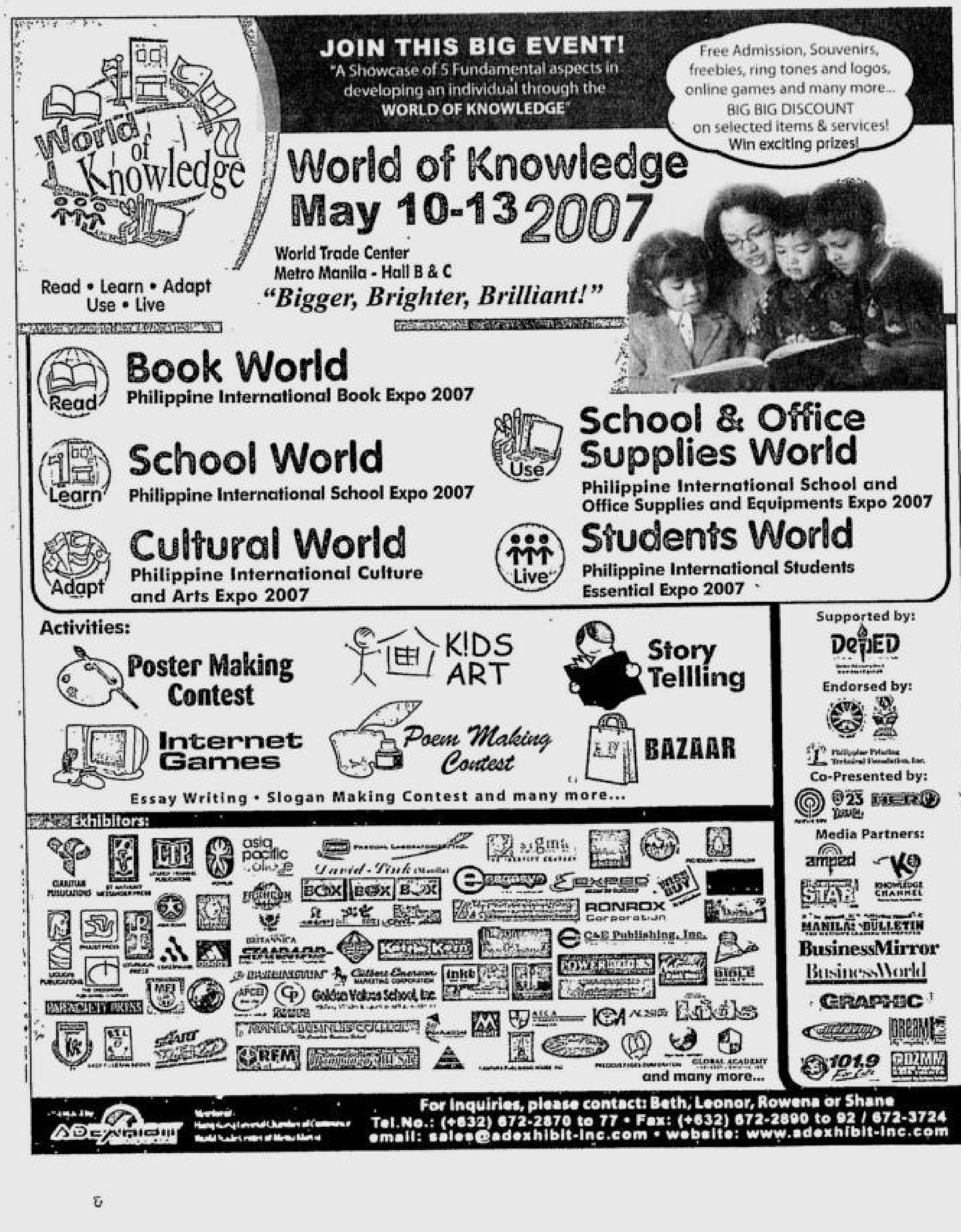
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## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 4, 2007)

| 52-WEEK HIGH | 52-WEEK LOW | STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **BANKS** | | | | | |
| 17.5 | 5 | Asiatrust Development Bank Inc. | 12.5 | 13 | 12.5 | 13 | 8,100 |
| 73 | 42.5 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 63.5 | 65 | 63.5 | 64 | 806,200 |
| 65.5 | 30.5 | Banco de Oro Universal Bank | 59 | 59 | 58 | 58 | 458,700 |
| 935 | 630 | China Banking Corp. | 920 | 925 | 900 | 925 | 6,130 |
| 20 | 18.18 | Citystate Savings Bank | 19.75 | 19.75 | 19.75 | 19.75 | 300 |
| 119 | 60 | Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 102 | 103 | 101 | 101 | 251,500 |
| 0.63 | 0.36 | Export and Industry Bank Inc. | 0.53 | 0.54 | 0.53 | 0.54 | 1,800,000 |
| 68.5 | 29 | Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company | 59.5 | 60.5 | 59.5 | 60 | 4,325,500 |
| 55 | 30.5 | Philippine National Bank | 46 | 46 | 46 | 46 | 4,000 |
| 68 | 39.5 | Philippine Savings Bank | 64 | 64 | 64 | 64 | 1,000 |
| 39.57 | 13.04 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 2,479,100 |
| 90 | 41 | Security Bank Corp. | 80.5 | 86.5 | 80.5 | 86.5 | 546,400 |
| | | **OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** | | | | | |
| 7.7 | 1.5 | Citisec Online.com Inc. | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 298,000 |
| 6.3 | 3.5 | Filipino Fund Inc. | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 5,000 |
| 0.8 | 0.4 | First Abacus Financial Holdings Corp. | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 230,000 |
| 39 | 27 | First Metro Investment Corp. | 37 | 37.5 | 37 | 37.5 | 10,200 |
| 5 | 4.15 | National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils. | 4.25 | 4.35 | 4.15 | 4.3 | 35,825,000 |
| 2.22 | 0.97 | PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. | 2.1 | 2.16 | 2.1 | 2.14 | 534,000 |
| 1,005.00 | 200 | The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc. | 535 | 535 | 530 | 535 | 1,950 |
| 1.88 | 1.02 | Vantage Corp. | 1.82 | 1.84 | 1.8 | 1.82 | 6,230,000 |
| | | **ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER** | | | | | |
| 0.37 | 0.16 | East Asia Power Resources Corp. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 280,000 |
| 62.6 | 41 | First Gen Corp. | 58.5 | 59.5 | 58.5 | 59.5 | 262,400 |
| 82.5 | 40.5 | First Phil. Holdings Corp. | 78.5 | 79 | 78 | 78 | 646,000 |
| 12.75 | 6.6 | Manila Water Company Inc. | 12.25 | 12.25 | 12 | 12.25 | 4,134,000 |
| 81 | 13 | Manila Electric Company A | 76 | 78.5 | 76 | 77.5 | 826,900 |
| 82 | 19 | Manila Electric Company B | 76.5 | 78.5 | 76.5 | 78 | 3,047,500 |
| 6.8 | 4.1 | PNOC Energy Development Corp. | 6 | 6 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 28,976,000 |
| 5.7 | 3.35 | Petron Corp. | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5 | 5.2 | 9,111,000 |
| 2.2 | 1.6 | Salcon Power Corp. | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 3,000 |
| 1.82 | 0.80 | Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 330,000 |
| | | **FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| 2.95 | 1.88 | Alliance Tuna International Inc. | 2.16 | 2.16 | 2.14 | 2.16 | 4,000 |
| 28.5 | 19.5 | Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 26.5 | 26.5 | 26 | 26 | 7,000 |
| 61 | 30 | Jollibee Foods Corp. | 53.5 | 54.5 | 53.5 | 54 | 1,005,900 |
| 1.62 | 0.60 | RFM Corp. | 1.42 | 1.42 | 1.36 | 1.4 | 2,590,000 |
| 4.06 | 2.34 | Roxas Holdings | 2.44 | 2.44 | 2.42 | 2.42 | 87,000 |
| 67.5 | 61 | San Miguel Corp. A | 64 | 64.5 | 64 | 64.5 | 138,300 |
| 84 | 68 | San Miguel Corp. B | 72.5 | 73.5 | 72.5 | 73.5 | 120,200 |
| 0.51 | 0.165 | Swift Foods Inc. | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 260,000 |
| 24 | 15.75 | Universal Robina Corp. | 16 | 16 | 15.75 | 15.75 | 2,602,300 |
| | | **CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 5.17 | 1.07 | EEI Corp. | 4.85 | 4.85 | 4.75 | 4.75 | 713,000 |
| 4.5 | 1.08 | Fortune Cement Corp. | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 145,000 |
| 9.1 | 4.2 | Holcim Philippines Inc. | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 8.8 | 2,669,000 |
| 7.5 | 2.04 | Philippine National Const. Corp. | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 2,000 |
| 2 | 0.245 | Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc. | 1.76 | 1.8 | 1.72 | 1.74 | 3,371,000 |
| | | **CHEMICALS** | | | | | |
| 5.9 | 1.76 | Chemrez Technologies Inc. | 5.6 | 5.9 | 5.5 | 5.5 | [illegible] |
| | | **DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| 0.43 | 0.06 | [illegible] Resources Inc. | 0.27 | 0.28 | 0.24 | 0.27 | [illegible] |
| | | **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| 4.35 | 1.7 | A. Soriano Corp. | 3.7 | 3.75 | 3.65 | 3.7 | 1,009,000 |
| 0.0926 | 0.022 | AJO.net Holdings Inc. | 0.085 | 0.0875 | 0.085 | 0.0875 | 1,300,000 |
| 0.69 | 0.17 | APC Group Inc. | 0.54 | 0.55 | 0.53 | 0.55 | 10,100,000 |
| 3.3 | 1.48 | ATN Holdings Inc. B | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 8,000 |
| 0.018 | 0.008 | Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.013 | 41,500,000 |
| 0.019 | 0.0005 | Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. B | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 20,000,000 |
| 9.7 | 4.85 | Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. | 8.8 | 9 | 8.8 | 8.9 | 1,903,000 |
| 0.016 | 0.0065 | Alcorn Gold Resources Corp. | 0.013 | 0.014 | 0.013 | 0.014 | 73,000,000 |
| 7.3 | 3.5 | Alliance Global Group Inc. | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 830,000 |
| 1.04 | 0.45 | Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc. | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 300,000 |
| 2.24 | 0.83 | Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp. | 2.18 | 2.22 | 2.18 | 2.18 | 4,034,000 |
| 660 | 377.5 | Ayala Corp. | 600 | 600 | 595 | 595 | 807,400 |
| 14 | 7.07 | Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc. | 14 | 14 | 14 | 14 | 6,000 |
| 6.9 | 0.7 | Banbac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. | 4.6 | 4.6 | 4.56 | 4.56 | 451,000 |
| 4.46 | 0.07 | Benpres Holdings Corp. | 3.7 | 3.85 | 3.7 | 3.75 | 10,746,000 |
| 7.8 | 3.25 | DMCI Holdings Inc. | 7.3 | 7.8 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7,070,000 |
| 1.3 | 0.7 | F and J Prince Holdings Corp. A | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 1.08 | 30,000 |
| 6 | 2.65 | Filinvest Development Corp. | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 58,000 |
| 0.42 | 0.13 | Forum Pacific Inc. | 0.3 | 0.35 | 0.3 | 0.32 | 550,000 |
| 3.50 | 1.14 | House of Investments Inc. | 2.85 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 2.85 | 10,000 |
| 14.5 | 5.3 | JG Summit Holdings Inc. | 12 | 12.5 | 12 | 12.5 | 633,000 |
| 2.6 | 0.6 | Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. A | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 10,000 |
| 2.65 | 1 | Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. B | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 200,000 |
| 0.43 | 0.185 | MEDCO Holdings Inc. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 60,000 |
| 0.80 | 0.1 | Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 0.52 | 110,000 |
| 12.5 | 0.88 | Magnum Holdings Inc. | 11 | 11 | 10.75 | 10.75 | 252,600 |
| 3.6 | 0.18 | Multitech Investments Corp. | 3.2 | 3.2 | 3.15 | 3.2 | 2,313,000 |
| 0.40 | 0.155 | Prime Orion Philippines Inc. | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 3,500,000 |
| 407.5 | 205 | SM Investments Corp. | 387.5 | 395 | 387.5 | 392.5 | 322,870 |
| 0.51 | 0.115 | Sinophil Corp. | 0.36 | 0.38 | 0.36 | 0.37 | 16,990,000 |
| 0.85 | 0.51 | Solid Group Inc. | 0.72 | 0.73 | 0.72 | 0.73 | 900,000 |
| 1.34 | 0.68 | South China Resources Inc. | 1.22 | 1.26 | 1.22 | 1.24 | 510,000 |
| 0.41 | 0.05 | Unioil Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 600,000 |
| 0.24 | 0.08 | Wellex Industries Inc. | 0.165 | 0.17 | 0.16 | 0.16 | 430,000 |
| 0.55 | 0.15 | Zeus Holdings Inc. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 50,000 |
| | | **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| 2.16 | 0.75 | A Brown Company Inc. | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 1.36 | 623,000 |
| 0.58 | 0.3 | Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 40,000 |
| 18.5 | 10.25 | Ayala Land Inc. | 17.75 | 17.75 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 8,822,300 |
| 1.72 | 0.65 | Belle Corp. | 1.28 | 1.34 | 1.28 | 1.32 | 5,106,000 |
| 3.1 | 1.18 | C and P Homes Inc. | 2.32 | 2.38 | 2.32 | 2.30 | 1,327,000 |
| 4.6 | 1.8 | Cebu Holdings Inc. | 4.2 | 4.46 | 4.2 | 4.45 | 1,155,000 |
| 2.1 | 1 | Cebu Property Venture and Dev't Corp.B | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 1.7 | 250,000 |
| 2.9 | 1 | Cityland Development Corp. | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 43,000 |
| 0.54 | 0.24 | Crown Equities Inc. | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 1,220,000 |
| 0.54 | 0.165 | Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.46 | 250,000 |
| 3.1 | 0.04 | Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. | 2.4 | 3.1 | 2.4 | 3.1 | 12,604,000 |
| 0.99 | 0.44 | Empire East Land Holdings Inc. | 0.78 | 0.8 | 0.78 | 0.78 | 16,320,000 |
| 0.165 | 0.027 | Ever Gotesco Resources and Hold'gs Inc. | 0.14 | 0.14 | 0.135 | 0.135 | 1,030,000 |
| 1.12 | 0.38 | Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.76 | 0.78 | 0.76 | 0.78 | 1,250,000 |
| 2.04 | 0.83 | Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.8 | 1.84 | 1.8 | 1.82 | 51,052,000 |
| 0.33 | 0.05 | Gotesco Land Inc. A | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 0.23 | 230,000 |
| 3.36 | 2.04 | Highlands Prime Inc. | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 2.55 | 65,000 |
| 0.016 | 0.0038 | Interport Resources Corp. A | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 0.011 | 11,200,000 |
| 0.016 | 0.005 | Interport Resources Corp. B | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 100,000 |
| 0.69 | 0.2 | Kuok Phil. Properties Inc. | 0.48 | 0.48 | 0.44 | 0.45 | 22,560,000 |
| 0.90 | 0.18 | MRC Allied Industries Inc. | 0.76 | 0.8 | 0.76 | 0.77 | 12,630,000 |
| 3.95 | 1.20 | Megaworld Corp. | 3.4 | 3.6 | 3.4 | 3.55 | 88,471,000 |
| 8.4 | 1.6 | Metro Pacific Investments Corp. | 4.8 | 4.85 | 4.8 | 4.65 | 184,000 |
| 0.87 | 0.25 | Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp. | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.59 | 0.59 | 1,150,000 |
| 3.6 | 1.1 | Polar Property Holdings Corp. | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 30,000 |
| 23 | 9.6 | Robinson Land Corp. | 17.5 | 17.5 | 17.25 | 17.5 | 416,300 |
| 6.7 | 1.48 | SM Development Corp. | 5.2 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.4 | 1,715,000 |
| 13 | 6.9 | SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 11.5 | 11.75 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 2,585,500 |
| 0.27 | 0.09 | Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.2 | 0.205 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 1,440,000 |
| 1.74 | 0.3 | Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc. | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 10,000 |
| | | **MEDIA** | | | | | |
| [illegible] | [illegible] | [illegible] | 28 | 28.5 | 28 | 28.5 | [illegible] |
| | | **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** | | | | | |
| 2.12 | 1.1 | Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 1.66 | 437,000 |
| 1,445.00 | 820 | Globe Telecom Inc. | 1,215.00 | 1,225.00 | 1,215.00 | 1,220.00 | 92,820 |
| 2,820.00 | 1,700.00 | Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co. | 2,535.00 | 2,535.00 | 2,520.00 | 2,520.00 | 76,580 |
| 7.9 | 3.1 | Pilipino Telephone Corp. | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.6 | 6.7 | 397,000 |
| | | **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | | | | | |
| 0.39 | 0.155 | Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.25 | 0.26 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 1,530,000 |
| 7 | 2 | Diversified Financial Network Inc. | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 6.5 | 963,000 |
| 7.3 | 2 | IPVG Corp. | 6.7 | 7.3 | 6.7 | 7.3 | 4,459,000 |
| 0.075 | 0.046 | ISM Communications Corp. | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.065 | 0.055 | 200,000 |
| 0.033 | 0.011 | Imperial Resources Inc. A | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.026 | 0.026 | 4,500,000 |
| 2.9 | 1.38 | Ionics Inc. | 2.34 | 2.34 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 103,000 |
| 1.84 | 1.1 | Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.44 | 1.44 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 133,000 |
| 0.06 | 0.025 | PhilWeb.Com Inc. | 0.046 | 0.047 | 0.046 | 0.047 | 47,900,000 |
| 5.8 | 1 | Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc. | 2.24 | 2.24 | 2.22 | 2.22 | 130,000 |
| | | **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 1.88 | 1.14 | Aboitiz Transport System Corp. | 1.52 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 179,000 |
| 6.8 | 2.5 | Asian Terminals Inc. | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.3 | 6.3 | 1,101,000 |
| 32 | 11.75 | Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc. | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27 | 27.5 | 3,142,100 |
| 2.08 | 0.86 | Keppel Philippines Marine Inc. | 1.94 | 2.04 | 1.94 | 2.04 | 3,384,000 |
| | | **HOTEL & LEISURE** | | | | | |
| 4.25 | 1.26 | Leisure and Resorts World Corp. | 3.9 | 4.05 | 3.85 | 4.05 | 4,542,000 |
| 0.45 | 0.18 | Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc. | 0.38 | 0.39 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 850,000 |
| 1.2 | 0.42 | Waterfront Philippines Inc. | 0.93 | 0.96 | 0.93 | 0.95 | 10,960,000 |
| | | **DIVERSIFIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 4.35 | 1.84 | Macroasia Corp. | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 3.95 | 2,035,000 |
| 16 | 13 | Pacific Online Systems Corp. | 13.75 | 14.25 | 13.75 | 14.25 | 994,300 |
| 30 | 9.5 | Paxys Inc. | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 1,310,500 |
| | | **MINING** | | | | | |
| 0.018 | 0.007 | Abra Mining and Industrial Corp. | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.013 | 123,500,000 |
| 7.6 | 2.6 | Apex Mining Company Inc. A | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.7 | 82,000 |
| 7.7 | 2.55 | Apex Mining Company Inc. B | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 5.6 | 379,000 |
| 18.5 | 5.6 | Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp. | 18 | 18 | 17.5 | 17.75 | 1,572,100 |
| 14.75 | 6.7 | Benguet Corp. A | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 40,900 |
| 1.98 | 0.0602 | GEOGRACE Resources Philippines Inc. | 1.88 | 1.96 | 1.88 | 1.94 | 34,645,000 |
| 0.42 | 0.215 | Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 37,880,000 |
| 0.47 | 0.225 | Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 0.35 | 7,580,000 |
| 0.037 | 0.0154 | Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.034 | 0.035 | 305,600,000 |
| 0.039 | 0.017 | Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.037 | 0.037 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 156,300,000 |
| 0.024 | 0.0075 | Omico Corp. | 0.019 | 0.019 | 0.018 | 0.019 | 216,300,000 |
| 5.9 | 2.65 | Philex Mining Corp. | 5 | 5.1 | 4.95 | 4.95 | 6,577,000 |
| 32 | 14.75 | Semirara Mining Corp. | 26.5 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 26.5 | 47,200 |
| 1.8 | 0.41 | Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp. | 1.42 | 1.42 | 1.38 | 1.38 | 1,333,000 |
| | | **OIL** | | | | | |
| 0.58 | 0.23 | Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.4 | 0.41 | 0.4 | 0.41 | 2,810,000 |
| 0.017 | 0.008 | Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 27,300,000 |
| 0.019 | 0.009 | Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 0.017 | 11,400,000 |
| 2.24 | 1.5 | PNOC Exploration Corp. A | 2.24 | 2.24 | 2.24 | 2.24 | 40,000 |
| 14.81 | 7.88 | Petroenergy Resources Corp. | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 306,000 |
| 0.0182 | 0.0089 | The Philodrill Corp. | 0.015 | 0.016 | 0.015 | 0.015 | 241,000,000 |

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

## CURRENCIES

| May 4, 2007<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.737518 | 1.000000 | 47.6730 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.006130 | 0.008311 | 0.3962 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.466406 | 1.988300 | 94.7882 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.094298 | 0.127859 | 6.0954 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.606511 | 0.822368 | 39.2047 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.666411 | 0.903587 | 43.0767 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.484539 | 0.656987 | 31.3205 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.607260 | 0.823384 | 39.2532 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 1.956332 | 2.652590 | 126.4569 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.196661 | 0.266652 | 12.7121 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.482953 | 0.654836 | 31.2180 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000082 | 0.000111 | 0.0053 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.022519 | 0.030534 | 1.4556 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.200811 | 0.272279 | 12.9804 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.355900 | 64.6398 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000796 | 0.001079 | 0.0514 |
| China | Yuan** | 0.095614 | 0.129643 | 6.1805 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.239066 | 0.324149 | 15.4532 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.365216 | 0.495197 | 23.6075 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134255 | 0.182037 | 8.6782 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018068 | 0.024498 | 1.1679 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.215649 | 0.292398 | 13.9395 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.067594 | 0.091651 | 4.3693 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.542452 | 0.735510 | 35.0640 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.123172 | 0.167009 | 7.9618 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.012166 | 0.016496 | 0.7864 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.106125 | 0.143895 | 6.8599 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.109087 | 0.147911 | 7.0514 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.014208 | 0.019264 | 0.9184 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.022162 | 0.030049 | 1.4325 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000344 | 0.000466 | 0.0222 |

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—May 3, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of April 30, 2007

# Gov't needs to mop up ₱50B in excess cash

## BSP: There's too much money in circulation

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS EXpects to mop up about P50 billion in excess money supply, which is feared to accelerate inflation and breach the targets authorities have set, with the implementation of three monetary measures.

The central bank's Monetary Board believes that, by removing P50 billion in excess liquidity from the system, the government would be able to rein in the uncomfortable growth of money supply and keep inflation within an acceptable range, a ranking BSP official said.

The first of the three measures, all of which will take effect on May 10, is to encourage government-owned and -controlled corporations to deposit funds to the BSP by offering an attractive interest rate and exempting them from the tiering scheme.

The BSP said the interest rate to be offered to GOCCs would be higher than what regular banks can offer and what they can earn from investing in government securities.

For GOCCs, exemption means that their deposits will earn an interest of 7.5 percent, the BSP's key policy rate.

Under the tiering scheme, deposits of P5 billion or less earns an interest of 7.5 percent. Deposits in excess of P5 billion but not more than P10 billion earns 5.5 percent, while those in excess of P10 billion has a rate of 3.5-percent.

The second measure is to allow trust departments of banks to deposit with the BSP.

The third is to encourage banks to consider placements in special deposit accounts with the BSP. In doing so, banks would be complying with the liquidity floor requirements for government deposits.

Banks are required to invest half of deposits they obtained from government entities in government securities. This is to ensure liquidity in case of heavy withdrawal by government units.

But starting May 10, banks may directly park with the BSP half of the deposits they obtain from government entities as an alternative compliance to the liquidity floor requirements.

"These measures are intended to help prevent inflationary pressures that could build up over the medium term as a result of rapid money supply growth driven by foreign exchange inflows," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

By parking more funds with the BSP, the excess money in the system will be removed.

The BSP earlier reported that domestic liquidity grew by 24.6 percent to P2.927 trillion in March from a year ago.

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|---|---|---|
| | as of 4/26/07 | as of 5/3/07 |
| Philamlife Equity Fund | 1.7991 | 1.7638 |
| Philamlife Fixed Income Fund | 1.2808 | 1.2970 |
| Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund | 1.3564 | 1.3578 |
| Philamlife Global Bond Fund | 1.1969 | 1.1968 |

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Fund prices are net of transaction costs. These investment funds are specific for variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Our investment management services relate to a variety of investments, each of which can fluctuate in value. The value of portfolios we manage may fall as well as rise, and the investor may not get back the full amount originally invested. The investment risks vary between different types of instruments. For example, for investments involving exposure to a currency other than that in which the portfolio is denominated, changes in the rate of exchange may cause the value of investments, and consequently the value of the portfolio, to go up or down. In the case of a higher volatility portfolio the loss on realization or cancellation may be very high (including potential total loss of investment), as the value of such an investment may fall suddenly and substantially. In making an investment decision, prospective investors must rely on their own examination of the merits and risks involved.

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| | | 269,000 | 55,621 | 39,637 | 31,722 | 27,460 |
| | | 329,000 | 52,145 | 37,160 | 29,739 | 25,744 |
| | | 399,000 | 48,669 | 34,683 | 27,756 | 24,028 |

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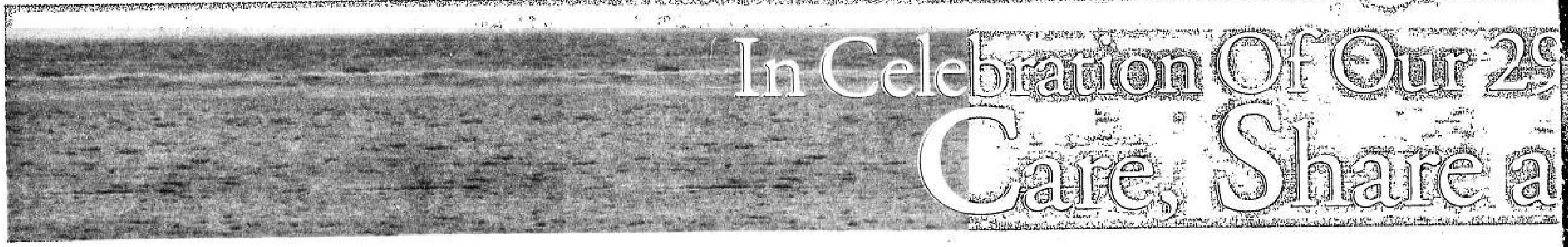

# In Celebration Of Our 29

# Care, Share a

In 1978, we founded Prudential Life Plan, Inc. to help the Filipino family prepare for a better future. Through the years, we've been blessed to serve you through our values of work and prayer.

Amb. Francisco A. Alba
*Founder and Chairman*
Prudentialife

## Creating Blue Oceans Together

Since 1978, Prudentialife has served the needs of Filipinos and remained steadfast, strong and stable despite many challenges. Today, the company enters the Blue Oceans of new market opportunities through a solid partnership between Prudentialife Plans, Inc. (PLPI) and Prudentialife Market Resources Corporation (PMRC).

Through the Blue Ocean Strategy, an innovative marketing approach which aims to reach new and untapped markets, PLPI as service provider and PMRC as a marketing company, continue to recreate and expand. Together they discover new ways of doing business through a revitalized organization, product innovation, and by being highly responsive to the markets they serve.

We ha
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*"The rains may come, streams rise and winds blow and beat against the home, yet it will not fall because it has its foundation on rock."*

*- Parable of the Wise and Foolish Builders*

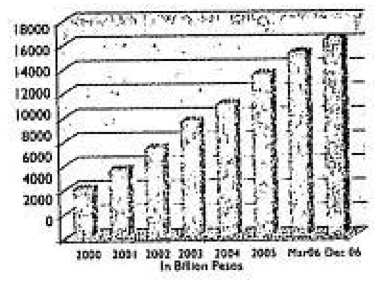
Prudentialife has faithfully adhered to this Parable and built on a solid foundation based on hard work and prayer. Since then, the company has been blessed with strength, stability and security.

## Strength And Stability

Prudentialife is managed by a professional, hardworking, values-oriented and customer-driven management and staff. It has earned the trust and confidence of its planholders who are assured with a growing trust fund.

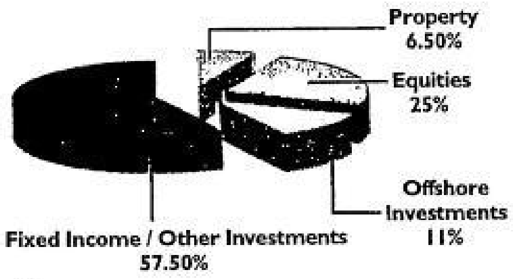
### Trust Fund Build-Up

The Trust Fund has reached P16.2 billion in 2006 and is growing at an average of 20% annually.



### Trust Fund Portfolio Mix

In 2006, the trust fund generated an income of P1.75 billion with a return on investment (ROI) of 16.80%.

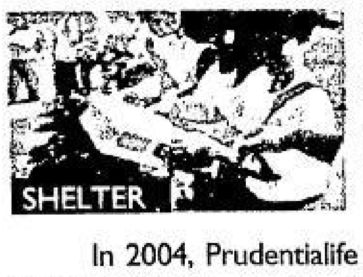


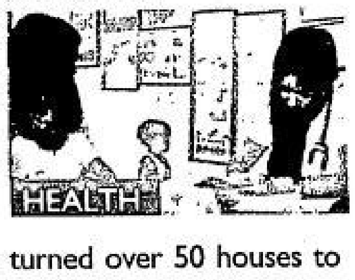
### Trustee Banks

- BPI • ING • Deutsche Bank
- Equitable-PCIBank • Metrobank • Banco de Oro

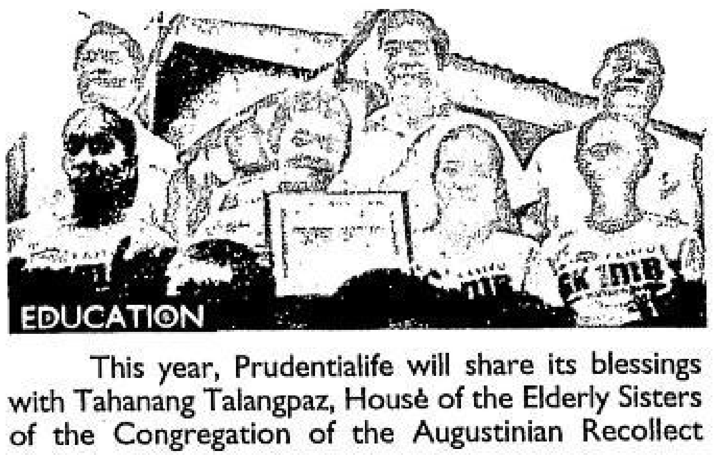
## A Tradition of Reaching Out

For 28 years, Prudentialife has espoused Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) through shelter, education, health, church and community programs.


SHELTER


HEALTH

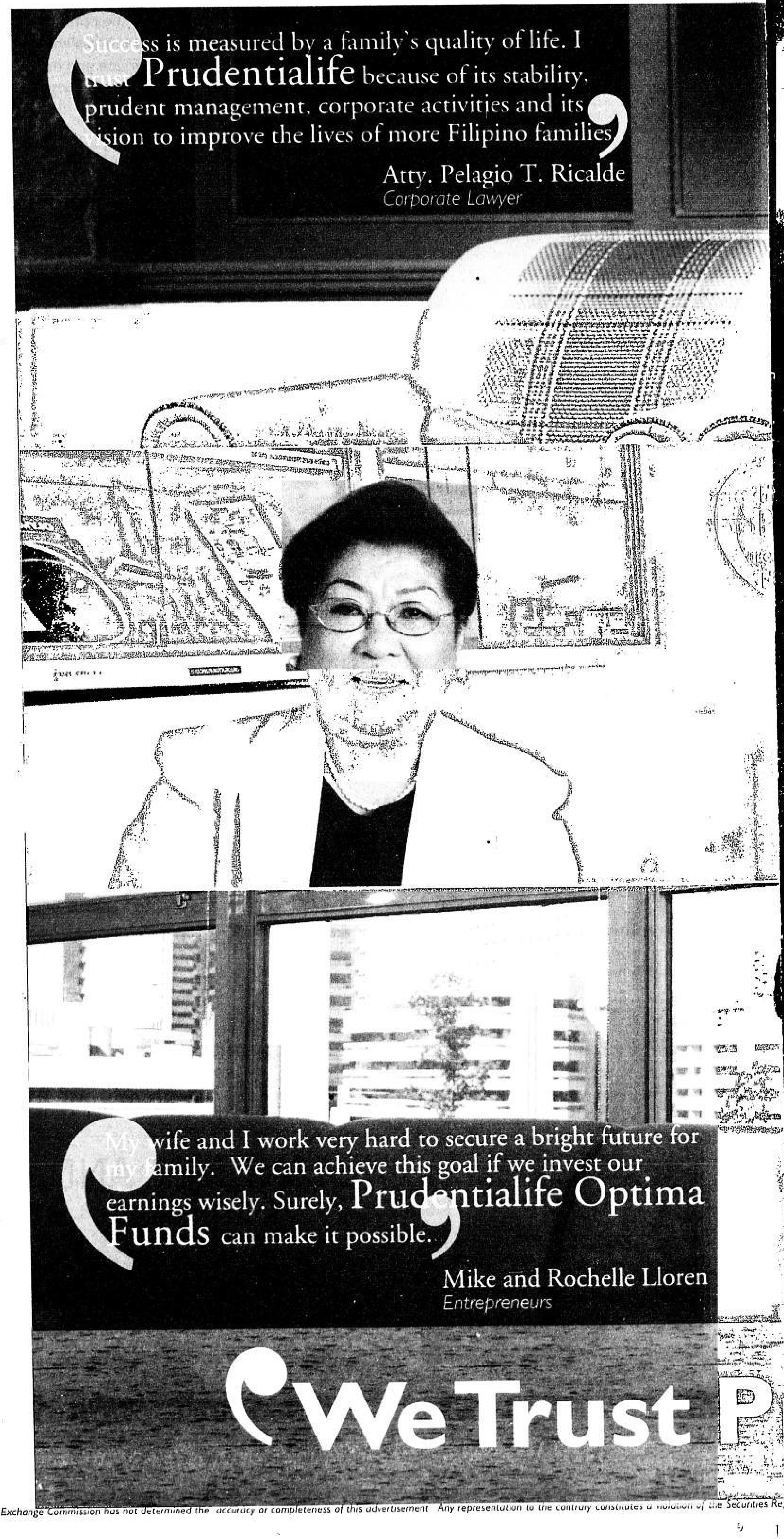
In 2004, Prudentialife turned over 50 houses to Gawad Kalinga at the Prudentialife-GK Village in Baseco, Tondo, Manila which benefited 48 families. Two houses were converted to the Prudentialife-JATA-SIBOL School to provide early education for deserving children with the help of volunteer teachers. Employee volunteers regularly visit the village for medical missions and other social services for the families.


EDUCATION

This year, Prudentialife will share its blessings with Tahanang Talangpaz, House of the Elderly Sisters of the Congregation of the Augustinian Recollect Sisters at Tagaytay City.

In addition, the Prudentialife 4th Silver Tee Open Golf Charity will benefit the victims of Typhoon Reming.

**Prudentialife**
Foundation, Inc.



Success is measured by a family's quality of life. I trust Prudentialife because of its stability, prudent management, corporate activities and its vision to improve the lives of more Filipino families.

Atty. Pelagio T. Ricalde
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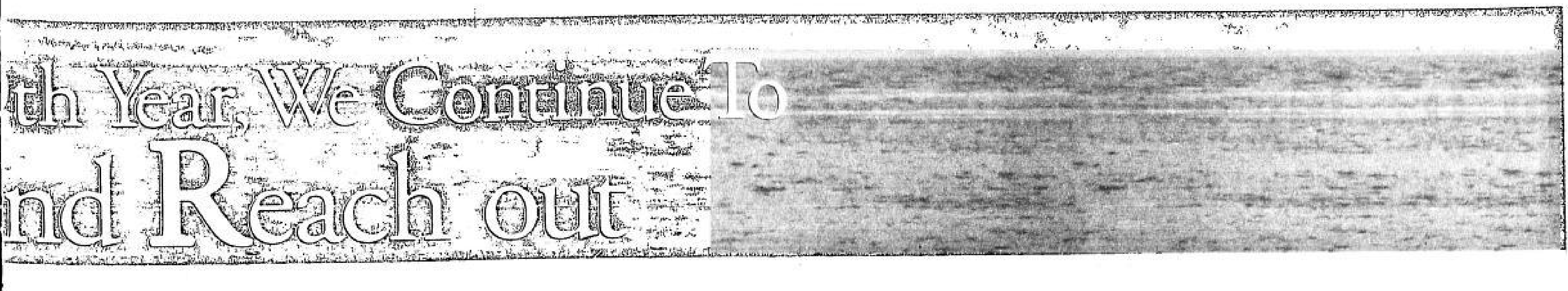

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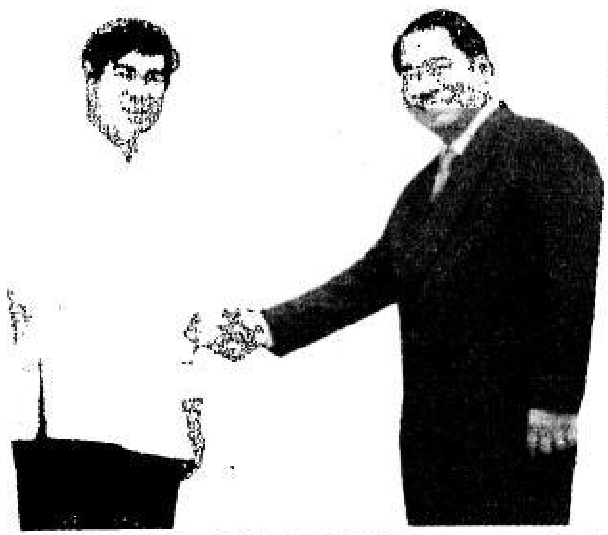

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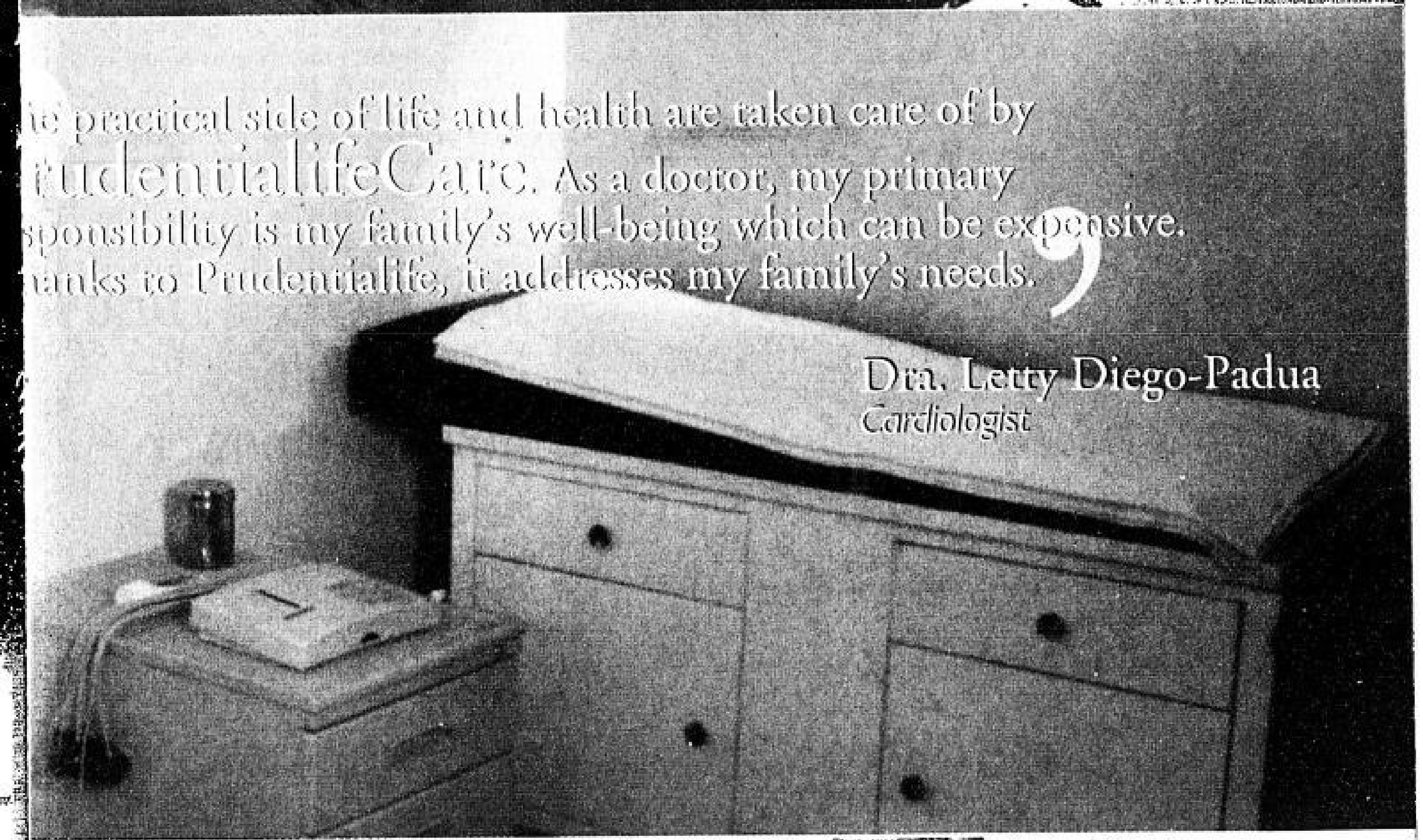

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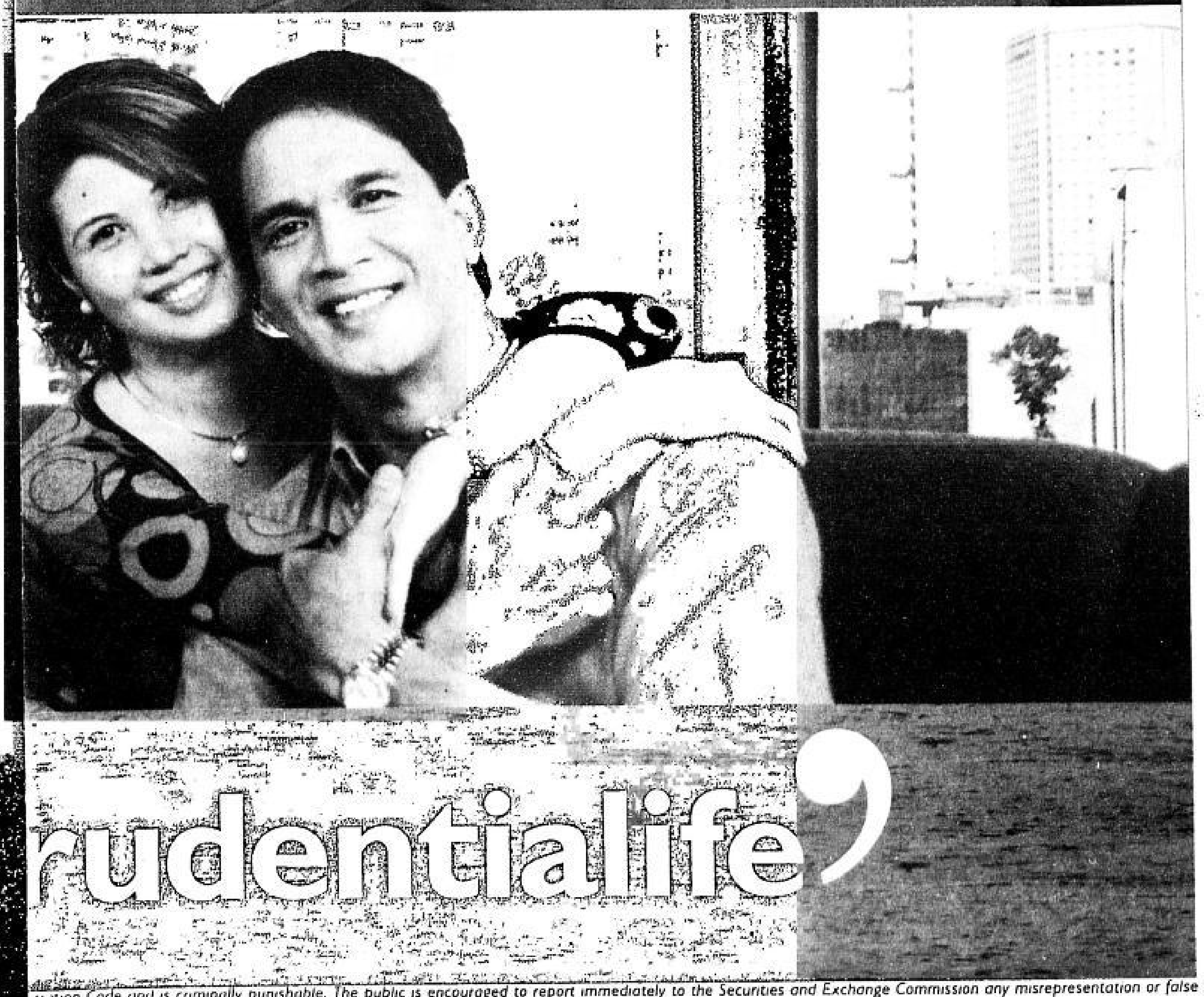

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# In ’07, big businesses seen to pay ₱469B in taxes

## Payment represents 18% increase from the ₱397B collected last year

**By Michelle V. Remo**

LARGE CORPORATIONS IDENTIFIED by the Bureau of Internal Revenue are expected to remit P468.84 billion in taxes to the government this year.

That amount is enough to put a dent on the government's budget deficit, paring it down considerably.

The taxes expected to be remitted represent an 18-percent increase from the P397.594 billion collected from large corporations a year ago. The figure accounts for 61 percent of the BIR's total tax collection target of P765.859 billion for 2007.

As defined by the National Internal Revenue Code, a large taxpayer is one whose net worth is at least P300 million, pays an annual withholding tax of at least P1 million, pays value added tax of at least P100,000 for any quarter, and pays P1 million in excise tax for the preceding taxable year.

Large taxpayers, unlike regular corporate taxpayers, are required to pay taxes directly to the BIR's national office in Quezon City for close monitoring. They are likewise obliged to use the BIR's electronic filing and payment system in complying with its tax obligations.

The BIR's Large Taxpayers Service (LTS), the unit tasked to collect taxes from the over 1,000 large corporations, said it has begun implementing several measures to increase its tax collection.

BIR Assistant Commissioner Nestor Valeroso, who heads the LTS, said one of the measures was the industry benchmarking system, which is a way of detecting under-declaration of income.

Under the system, the BIR comes up with a benchmark on the ratio of taxes to gross income for every industry. A corporate taxpayer whose tax remittances substantially falls below the benchmark would then be subjected to investigation.

The BIR said it would also intensify the use of the Relief Auditing System to help ensure proper tax remittances, especially by large taxpayers.

Under the Relief, which stands for Reconciliation of Listings for Enforcement, the BIR will turn to third parties to confirm whether a company has declared an accurate amount of income.

The third parties are commonly clients of companies that are subjected to audit. The BIR matches the purchases declared by the the third parties to the sales declared by the company being audited.

The BIR is hard pressed to increase its revenue collection, especially after it fell short of its tax collection target for the first quarter.

In the first three months, the BIR turned in only P143.1 billion in taxes, way below the target of P155.2 billion.

To catch up with its full-year goal of P765.859 billion, the BIR was told to strengthen its tax audit functions.

Of the amount, BIR operations will account for P730.47 billion, while non-BIR operations will tend to the rest. Taxes falling under non-BIR operations include those imposed on Treasury bills and bonds, the volume of issuance of which is decided by the Bureau of the Treasury.

Because the LTS is tasked to collect P468.84 billion of the BIR's total tax take for the year, revenue offices nationwide are tasked to turn in the remaining P261.63 billion.

The combined tax collection goal of the BIR regional offices is 20 percent higher than last year's P217.829 billion.

# Gov’t, China firm deny ‘hasty deal’ charge

**By Riza T. Olchondra**

THE GOVERNMENT AND ZTE CORP. OF CHINA denied allegations that the $350-million deal to put up a national broadband network (NBN) was hastily brokered, breaking Philippine laws.

A proponent of NBN, Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), has claimed that the Department of Transportation and Communications violated the law in signing a commercial deal with ZTE on April 21, 2007.

An NBN proponent from the United States, Arescom Inc., as well as US Ambassador Kristie A. Kenney, have also complained to the National Economic Development Authority (Neda).

According to a ZTE official privy to the deal, months before the Chinese firm submitted its proposal in August 2006, ZTE had been communicating with the Commission on Information and Communications Technology (CICT), an attached agency of the DOTC, which was originally in charge of the project.

The CICT then endorsed the Chinese firm's proposal to the Neda on Oct. 20, 2006.

On March 29, the Neda approved the Chinese firm's proposal, the ZTE official told the INQUIRER.

"We followed procedure, and we are the best qualified," the ZTE official said.

The source said ZTE is one of the biggest telcos in China, with an annual turnover of $50 billion. The firm has also been supplying equipment and services to Philippine telcos for about two years, so it is more familiar with the industry than the other proponents.

The Neda, for its part, confirmed the dates of submission and approval.

"It took six months to evaluate the proposal," Neda Director General Romulo Neri said. "We don't think that is undue haste. When any agency endorses a proposal to (Neda), it must have been selected based on development goals."

DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza said ZTE can best implement the broadband project and meet government goals.

"(AHI) is just a holding company and they cannot even name their principals, how can we deal with them?" Mendoza said.

On the other hand, Arescom's proposal "was limited to the (local governments) ... not for all government agencies down to the barangay level," he added.

AHI said it will continue to pursue the project and is preparing to sue DOTC.

# DOE: 95% of rural communities now have power

**By Abigail L. Ho**

COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT and the private sector has resulted in the energization of more than 95 percent of rural communities nationwide.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the country's expanded rural electrification program has reached the 95.26-percent level of barangay energization as of the first quarter.

This means that 39,955 of the 41,945 barangay units all over the country now have access to electricity.

The 1,990 communities that remain without electricity should be energized by next year, within which the government aims to complete its rural electrification program.

Of this number, 1,106 should have access to electricity within 2007.

"We are now treading the last mile of our electrification program, an even more challenging task given the limited government financing and the physical difficulty in reaching the remaining (communities), located in far-flung areas," Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla said in a statement.

# NFA gets BSP ...

From page B1

ties, the NFA resorted to collateralized debt financing facilities to raise money.

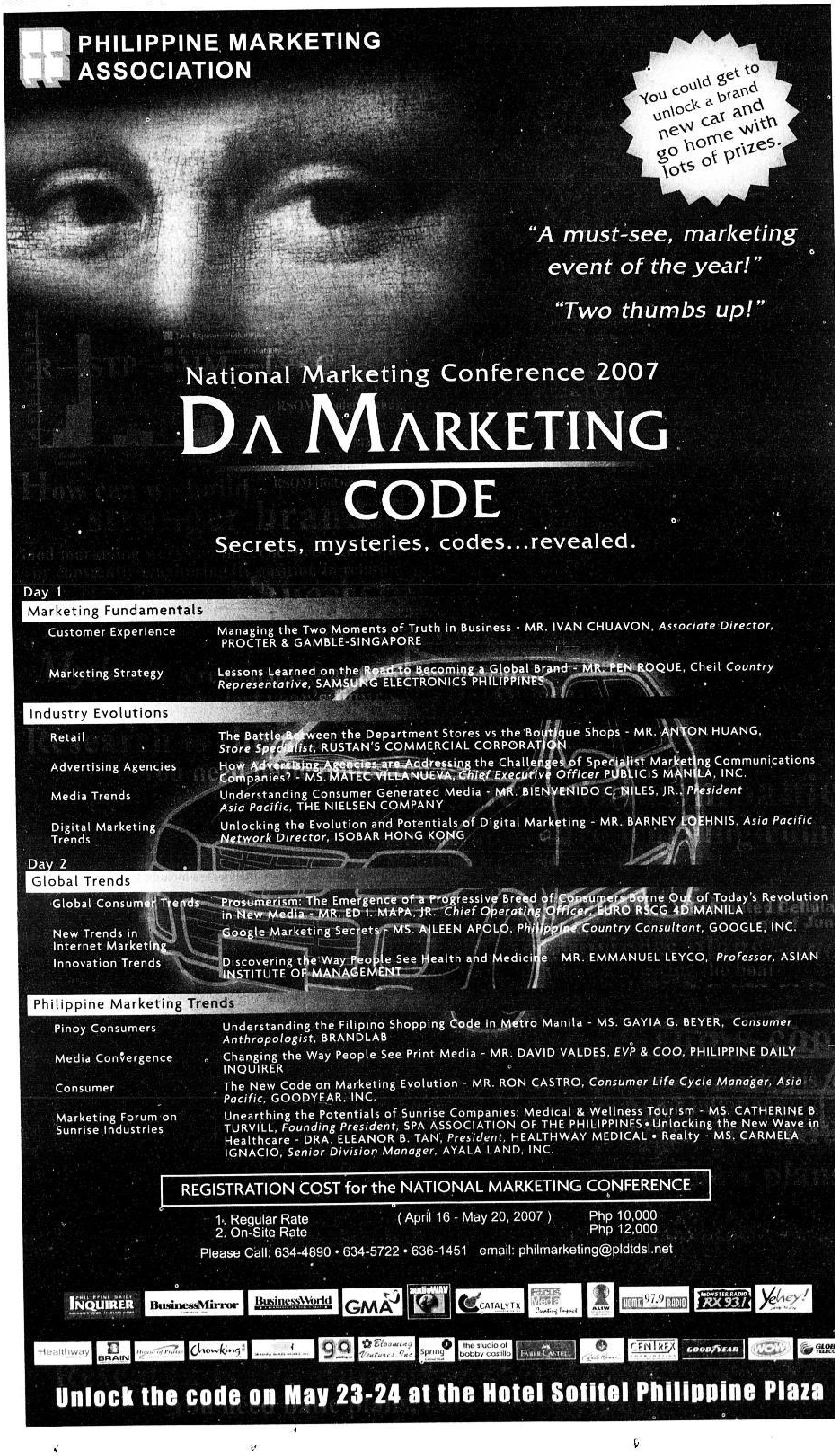
Under such scheme, the borrower gets a loan in excess of what it needs and uses the differential to buy zero-coupon bonds as a collateral for the principal debt.

Over time, the value of such collateral has gone up as the downtrend in interest rates resulted in capital appreciation.

"The zeros (zero coupon bonds) we bought before, if we reprice now and use it for refinancing, that's additional money to either retire or buy more zeros to (convert) our short-term debts into long-term," Yap said.

Aside from the bond sale, Yap also cited the possibility of selling a third of NFA's 300 warehouses nationwide and maximizing the use of the 120-hectare Food Terminal Inc. property in Taguig City.

He added that part of NFA's deficit-reduction program included privatization of some of the warehouses located in commercial hubs, which should be turned into logistics hub for storage.



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# Napocor eyes swap arrangement with banks

## To shield $300M worth of foreign debts from foreign exchange volatility

**By Michelle V. Remo**

STATE-OWNED NATIONAL POWER CORP. will enter into a currency swap deal with a group of selected banks to ensure it would be able to pay $300 million of its long-term debts.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the Monetary Board had approved this plan, which would allow Napocor to hedge against the depreciation of the peso.

Transactions that involve foreign exchange require the BSP's approval to ensure these would not cause problems on forex rates and the country's foreign currency reserves.

Under the arrangement, Napocor will get $300 million from the banks in 2026 to be paid in pesos computed based on the peso-dollar rate at the time of the signing of the deal. The dollar proceeds of these deal will be used to pay the $300 million worth of liabilities maturing that year.

Upon the signing of the deal, Napocor will pay the banks a semi-annual premium which has yet to be determined.

Given the Monetary Board approval, Napocor is expected to sign the deal with participating banks within the year.

The arrangement will ensure that Napocor's foreign-currency denominated debts will not balloon due to the possible depreciation of the peso.

In the previous years, Napocor's foreign obligations had ballooned in peso terms due to the depreciation of the local currency. This had prompted the national government to absorb about P200 billion of Napocor's debts when started implementing a power sector reform program.

Finance officials said absorbing some of Napocor's debts was necessary to make it attractive to investors who might want to buy the state agency's assets.

The official said Napocor had selected three banks as counter-parties to the swap arrangement.

Entering a swap arrangement was one of the measures intended to manage Napocor's liabilities, consistent with the aim of developing the country's power sector.

Last year, the national government secured a $450-million loan from the Asian Development Bank to pursue programs that will develop the energy sector.

The program loan will provide budgetary support to the government's efforts to restore financial health of the indebted sector, such as pursuing much-delayed privatization of its assets. Privatization requires upgrade of state-owned power plants.

Privatizing state-owned power assets has been an agreed strategy to prevent the sector's financial problems from becoming a full-blown crisis and thus help ensure a stable power supply.

The budgetary support from the ADB will also aid in the government's assumption of the P200-billion of Napocor's debts.

# Fil-Estate projects get BSP nod

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS HAS approved four of the five projects of Fil-Estate Urban Development Corp. (Urban) which are scheduled for completion within 18 months to three years from this year.

Urban president and COO Rafael Perez de Tagle Jr. said the BSP approval would allow the company to source dollars from the banking sector for the repayment of foreign loans.

This ensures the smooth facilitation of the company's loan payments, De Tagle added.

Urban, a member of the Fil-Estate Group of Companies, recently signed an omnibus agreement with Hong Kong-based LIM Advisers Inc. (HK) for the completion of five projects.

The Urban-LIM agreement involves a $12.5-million revolving credit facility that will serve as the initial funding for these projects.

The five projects include tourism-oriented and affordable housing development such as the Cathedral Heights Townhomes in Quezon City, the Sto. Domingo Clusters also in Quezon City , the Boracay Villas on Boracay Island, Camp John Hay Forest Cabins and Camp John Hay Suites (condotel).

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# Saudi Arabia assures RP of stable crude supply

**By Abigail L. Ho**

THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARAbia, the country's biggest crude supplier, has assured the government of stable crude supply, in the event of supply constraints from the Philippines' other suppliers.

In a meeting with Asian energy ministers, Saudi Arabia Petroleum Minister Ali Al-Naimi reiterated to Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla that his country was ready and willing to "make up for any shortfall" in case of supply disruptions that would affect the Philippines.

"And we will do it with pleasure," Al-Naimi said.

Last year, Saudi Arabia accounted for 56 percent of the country's crude supply, equivalent to 43.83 million barrels.

The Middle East, as a whole, supplied 95 percent of the country's crude requirements last year, or a total volume of 74.35 million barrels.

The Saudi Arabian government last week hosted a meeting among oil ministers from West Asia—including Iran, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Oman, Iraq and Bahrain—and East Asia—composed of Japan, China, Korea, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Philippines, Brunei and Thailand—to discuss energy interdependence and cooperation.

Coming off that meeting, Lotilla said East Asian countries wanted their concerns on oil supply stability and price affordability addressed.

West Asian countries sought assurance of demand from East Asia, which accounts for 66 percent of their market.

The Department of Energy is continuously looking for other crude suppliers, including those in South America and Africa.

"We really try, as much as possible, to encourage diversification of crude supply," he had said.

He said Venezuela had offered to supply oil to the Philippines, but the country was too far from here, making transporting the oil very difficult.

Another problem with Venezuela providing oil to the Philippines was that the quality of its crude did not jive with the configurations of the refinery facilities of local refiners Petron Corp. and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., he said.

He said Venezuelan oil was much heavier than Iranian or Saudi Arabian crude. Since this was the case, it was incompatible with existing refinery facilities in the country.

"We don't have the facilities to refine heavy crude yet. That's why when we talk about expansion and upgrading for both Petron and Shell, it includes enabling them to refine heavy crude," he said.

# Shipping firm gets perks

THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS has approved the granting of incentives to all-Filipino Seatrans Corp.'s P940-million project involving the operation of an oil tanker vessel for domestic supply runs.

BOI data show that Seatrans' project, which is now ready for commercial operations, would create 29 new jobs at full capacity.

The project involves the operation of a unit of a brand new 3,600-dead-weight-ton double hull ship, whose homeport is in Limay, Bataan.

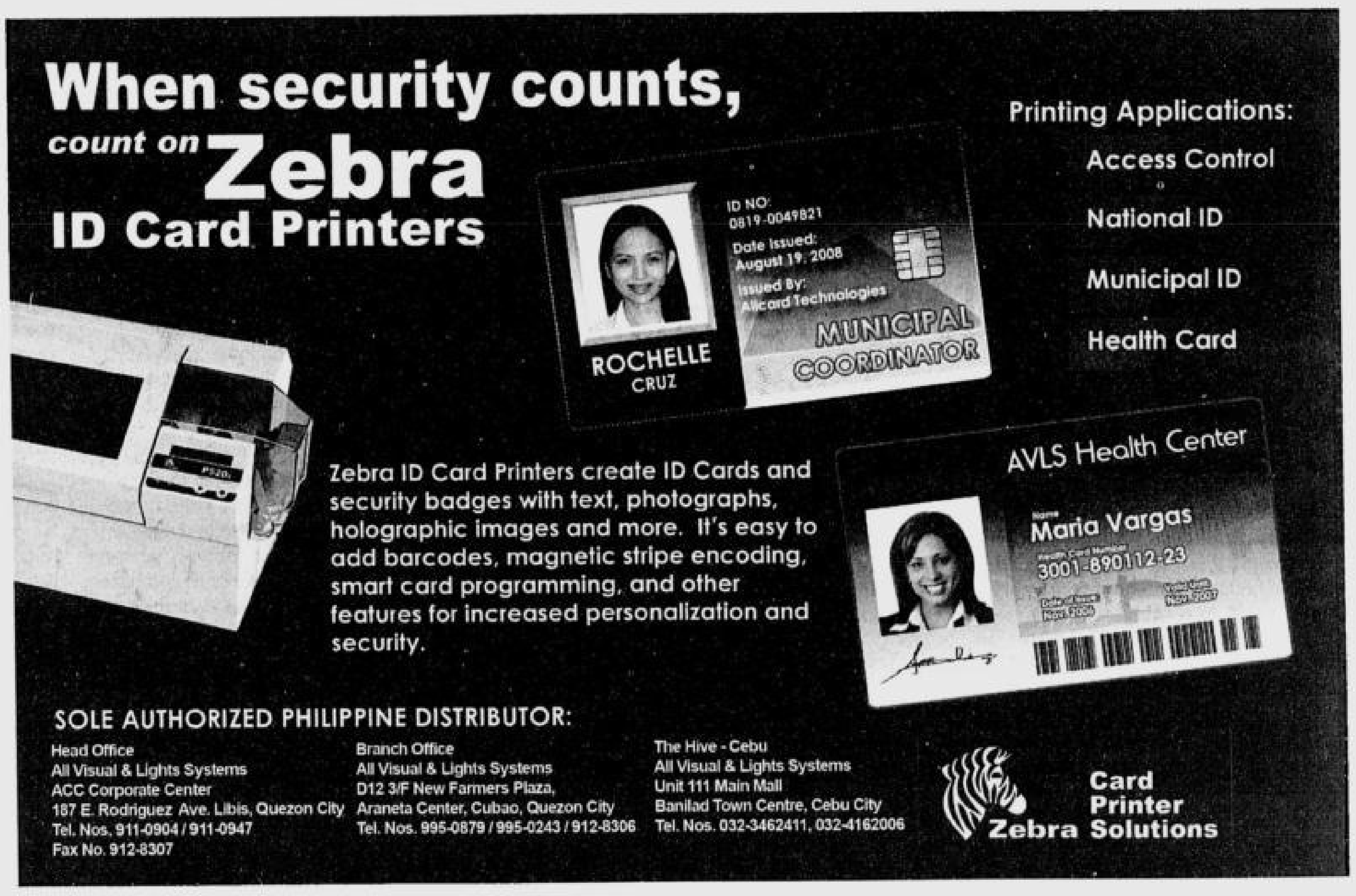
The vessel would haul petroleum products from the refineries and terminals in Bataan and Batangas to oil depots and bulk plants along coastal routes throughout the country.

The vessel is equipped with a global positioning system device called Purple Finder, which would indicate the ship's position at any given time.

The project cost covers the acquisition of the vessel itself, improvement and conduction, as well as working capital.

The BOI said the Seatrans project was given pioneer status due to the magnitude of the investment involved.

Pioneer status affords a firm a tax holiday of up to six years, duty-free importation of capital goods, as well as other fiscal and nonfiscal incentives. *Ronnel Domingo*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# Nokia's N95: A do-it-all wonder

**Text and photos by Charles E. Buban**

THIS WRITER WAS PRIVILEGED enough to be one of the first to try (for about a week) Nokia's latest multimedia smartphone, the N95.

The N95 is the epitome of convergence, packing several full-featured gadgets into one pocket-friendly phone.

This small mobile wonder features a pioneering two-way slide concept, integrated GPS functionality, a 5-megapixel camera and support for High Speed Downlink Packet Access—also known as 3.5G—network that makes browsing the Internet, reading e-mail, streaming video and downloading large files up to 10 times faster than the traditional system.

IN MULTI-MEDIA mode

### First things

One of the first things this writer noticed is the N95's gorgeous 2.6-inch, QVGA thin-film transistor (with a 16 million-color output and 320 x 240 pixel resolution) screen that displays sharp text and deep, colorful images.

Working in tandem with a light sensor (which measures the ambient light and adjusts screen brightness accordingly), the N95 worked very well in dimming the screen when indoors or brightening it up to make it visible outdoors even under bright sunlight.

Another unique feature to the N95 is its two-way sliding mechanism—sliding the face up reveals the alphanumeric keypad, while moving it in the other direction exposes a column of media playback keys (and reorients the screen to landscape).

### 5 MP camera

On the back of the device is the 5MP autofocus camera with Carl Zeiss lens (activated by a ring slider that also serves as lens cover), the same stuff that Sony uses in their CyberShot series of still digital cameras.

The breadth of customization and editing options available on N95's camera is almost like that of an actual digital camera since the user can choose from seven shooting modes, ranging from close-up to sports to night portrait, and five quality settings.

Brightness, contrast, white balance, color tone, ISO light sensitivity, and exposure value are also adjustable.

There's even a self-timer, a sequence mode for multiple shots and the flash even has a red-eye reduction option.

### Most anticipated

But one of the most anticipated features in the N95 could be the equipped GPS module and a basic mapping application.

The one that this writer tried was Nokia's Asia Maps that provided basic mapping and guidance around Metro Manila's roads and other landmarks such as gasoline stations, schools and hospital.

This software can also give routes and provide turn-by-turn navigation, a sort of city guide that enables the user to get to his or her destination whether driving or walking.

Messaging
GLOBE
No calendar entries today
WLAN scanning off
Clock
**THE EPITOME** of convergence

**THE NOKIA Asia Maps application works like a city guide (seen here pointing where the Inquirer office is located).**

### Other nice things

There are other nice things to like with the N95.

It also offers a mini-USB port instead of the proprietary connection for desktop synchronization, a 3.5mm audio jack for our favorite headphones so one doesn't have to reach for an adapter, an external memory card slot that supports microSD media up to 2GB, and finally, a pair of onboard stereo speakers situated along the sides.

Music lovers would also appreciate the fact that the N95 has an FM radio and an MP3 player that supports MP3, AAC, AAC+, eAAC+, WMA formats.

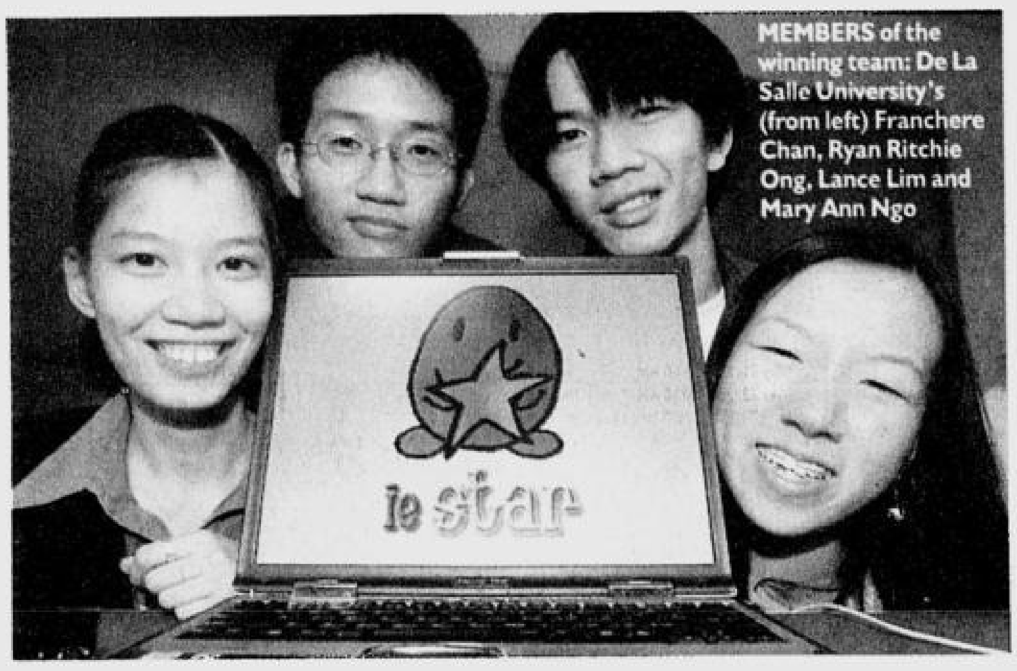
### Good deal

The N95 is the first phone this writer has seen in a while that does a great job at combining style with function. If only it weren't priced at P44,190, there should be no reason to think twice about buying this phone that does it all.

It certainly could hold its own against the best smartphones available today despite the lack of a QWERTY keyboard or a touchscreen. And if there is something that this writer could consider a concern, it would only be the N95's battery.

The N95 is rated for four hours of talk time and up to nine days of standby time. However, in this writer's experience, the battery required a daily charge after exerting so much to deliver the smartphone's various high-tech goodies—media player, phone, GPS, mobile Web browser.

The solution? Just keep your travel charger handy.



**MEMBERS of the winning team: De La Salle University's (from left) Franchere Chan, Ryan Ritchie Ong, Lance Lim and Mary Ann Ngo**

# IESTAR: Simple but remarkable tool for students, teachers

**By Riza T. Olchondra**

IMAGINE A WORLD WHERE TECHNOLOGY makes available better education for all.

Microsoft Philippines presented this challenge to technology students in February, enjoining them to respond with their very own innovations for the annual Imagine Cup.

De La Salle University's Cross+Linked team was right on target in the highlight of the contest, the software category. They will represent the Philippines in the global finals of Imagine Cup in Seoul, South Korea in August.

"Technology has to address user needs, not force users to learn something that does not fit their situation. For students, teachers and researchers, they need simple tech tools for storing, tracking and linking information," team leader Ryan Ong said.

The team created one such tool: the IE Star (Internet Explorer for Students Teachers and Researchers).

### Cross+Linked's star

IE STAR is a Web browser that allows the user to mine information online and highlight text and images, then save these as "nuggets," complete with Internet address and notes.

These nuggets can be rated using the star system (one star to five stars), much like the movies. The nuggets can also be shared through instant messages and accessed in a sidebar while the user composes a document in Microsoft word. Each stage of the work can be saved in sessions for tracking progress.

"The application is remarkable because it allows users to see which stack or category of 'nuggets' are piling up, which stack needs more information. This is something IE's favorites folder and bookmarks cannot do," said team coach Lloyd Espiritu.

What's more, the system takes up only 400 kilobytes of memory, less than some mp3s and any movie clip. It is also small enough to be saved in portable devices such as the thumb drive or iPod.

In second place was Trie of Knowledge by Ateneo de Manila University's Team Pi. Inspired by college checklists that tell students what prerequisite subjects they must take before moving on to more difficult subjects, the program quizzes students on a subject matter and then uses a teacher-formulated chart to tell the user which subjects he or she must master to move on to the next level.

In third place was Talk2Tiny, an online dictionary and language translation tool. It was created by Colegio San Juan de Letran's Team IMI for people with dyslexia or other physical conditions which make typing difficult.

### Going international

What clinched the gold for IE STAR was its simplicity, said Microsoft Phils. academic developer evangelist Tim Vergel De Dios.

"They really addressed a need in education and the application is easy to use and deploy," he said.

Imagine Cup partner CHED (Commission on Higher Education) was equally convinced. CHED deputy executive director Julito D. Vitriolo said 22 million elementary and high school students, 2.6 million college students, and countless researchers and educators in the Philippines, alone, can use such a user-friendly tool.

"What more in other developing countries?" the De La Salle team said.

Now that the team has the local judges convinced of the software's viability, the next challenge is to break the dominance of industrialized countries in the global finals since the Imagine Cup started in 2005.

"We think we have a shot at the treasure chest," Espiritu said, extending his team's metaphor to the worldwide championship.

### Shot at championship

To have a shot at the championship prize of $25,000 in cash and an opportunity to pitch their software project to Microsoft partners in Korea, the team has to make IE Star more portable.

"As suggested by the (local) panel, we can make it an IE plug-in or a portable application that does not need installation and can be saved in a thumb drive. This way the user can just go to any Internet café and use the software with any browser or document application," Espiritu said.

"We just want to make our tool as easy to use as possible. We enjoy using it and we hope others do too to encourage them to learn more and share more information," said Ong. "We can only pray to God (to help us in Seoul)."

*With reports from Reuben Joel Mercado*

# *Handhelds, smartphones replacing laptops in mobile workplace*

**By Abigail L. Ho**

THEY ARE SMALLER, EASIER TO handle and definitely not back breaking, even if you have to carry them around all day.

This may be why handheld devices and smartphones are gradually displacing laptops in the bags of Asia Pacific's mobile workforce.

According to a Springboard Research study titled "Beyond Email: Mobile Application Trends in Asia Pacific," the rollout of more mobile applications have enabled mobile workers to gradually get rid of their laptops and rely instead on their handhelds and smartphones.

Handhelds include personal digital assistants, while smartphones refer to mobile phones with advanced computing functions.

Size and weight are actually just secondary factors affecting the increase in smartphone penetration in the mobile workplace in the region.

After all, these phones/personal digital assistants/mini-computers are loaded with applications and functions that business users find very appealing.

"In many organizations, these devices are steadily overtaking the use of laptops, forcing them to devise strategies and look for tools and technologies to make applications accessible on mobile devices," the study states.

"This is one of the reasons why smartphone and other mobile device vendors expect the region to emerge as the biggest market for their products in near future," it adds.

Over the past year, the study says the Asia-Pacific region has proven itself an important market for handhelds and smartphones.

Last year, around 30 percent of global smartphone shipments were to the Asia-Pacific region (excluding Japan).

This comes as no surprise, considering how Asia Pacific currently accounts for a little more than half of the global mobile subscriber base.

Moving forward, it is expected to continue to be "the most dynamic wireless market in the world," Springboard says.

"In the past year, even as the mobile subscriber base grew by around 23 percent, the region witnessed a flurry of activities in the shape of new product launches, including high-end smartphones for business users and mobile applications," the study says.

"These developments were aided in part by the deployment of high-speed wireless networks. All this is definitely leading to a significant growth in the population of mobile workers and number of enterprises deploying wireless technologies," it adds.

Here in the country, while regular handsets still account for bulk of the mobile devices that wireless subscribers own, smartphones are slowly making their way into the scene.

Mobile operators Smart Communications Inc. and Globe Telecom Inc. have both been very aggressive in promoting wireless plans for corporate users, particularly those linked to Research in Motion's BlackBerry services.

Handset manufacturers Nokia, Sony Ericsson, Motorola and Samsung have also made much headway in encouraging upwardly mobile individuals to have a taste of their new offerings—mini computers that can do everything from voice calls and text messaging to emailing, browsing and even navigating through the streets of Metro Manila.

"The region has a growing number of workforce using mobile devices and applications to perform work-related functions on the move," the study says.

"The number of applications that can be used while on the move to meet business-critical needs is growing. The growing availability of such applications has been one of the noteworthy trends in the mobile service market in the region," it adds.

# Microsoft, Yahoo better as partners, not as one

SAN FRANCISCO/LOS ANGELES—Were Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo Inc. to merge, they would face a Noah's Ark problem: they've got two of everything.

As the biggest Internet players behind Google Inc., Microsoft and Yahoo's overlapping Internet businesses range from instant messaging to e-mail and advertising, as well as dozens of similar media and e-commerce properties, including news, sports, travel, music and finance.

Analysts and investors say that a strategic partnership, perhaps leading to an eventual combination, makes greater sense than an outright merger.

Reports on Friday that the on-again, off-again talks were on again revived a long-simmering debate over how best Microsoft and Yahoo can fight Google.

A source close to the situation said later in the day that talks had cooled.

"This is a situation where one and one equal less than two" because the consolidation process would result in fewer users overall, said Matt Rosoff, an analyst with research firm Directions on Microsoft.

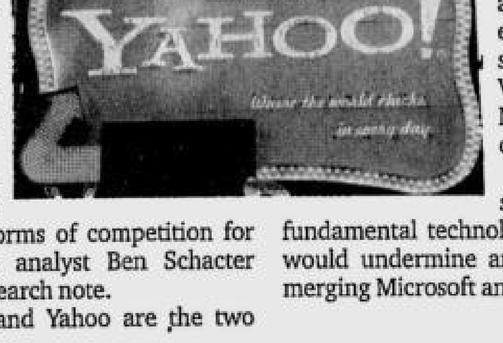
Even combined, Microsoft and Yahoo would present only a weak challenge to Google's dominance of the Web search market, said Trip Chowdhry, an analyst with Global Equities Research.

Together, Microsoft and Yahoo would have 38 percent of the US Web search market, versus Google's 48 percent.

But they would have only 27 percent worldwide, compared with Google's 66 percent, according to traffic data from audience measurement firm comScore Inc.

"An all-out merger may be difficult. I am sensing that there may be a very tight strategic alliance instead," said Chowdhry, who tracks Microsoft and Google, but Yahoo only indirectly, as competitors of the first two companies.

Chowdhry thinks a partnership combining Microsoft's strength in technology and Yahoo's audience of 500 million monthly users could help the companies attack Google on dozens of fronts, beyond Web search, where Google is weaker, such as e-mail.



A combination could create new forms of competition for Google, UBS analyst Ben Schacter wrote in a research note.

Microsoft and Yahoo are the two biggest consumer e-mail providers, with 19 percent of total minutes spent by US Web users, compared with just 3 percent for Google, he said.

And Microsoft would gain control of Yahoo's Web search service, which is No. 2 behind Google and Yahoo's recently upgraded Web search advertising system, dubbed Panama, Global Crown Capital analyst Martin Pyykkonen said.

But a combination also could lead to up to 50 percent of Yahoo's employees being let go, said Pyykkonen, who rates Yahoo shares "overweight."

Chowdhry said 30 to 50 percent of employees of Yahoo and Microsoft's Internet business could be cut.

In a full-scale merger, there also would be the big threat of a brain drain among Yahoo employees steeped in Silicon Valley's age-old Microsoft-hating culture.

Chowdhry said there was a fundamental technology conflict that would undermine any quick shot at merging Microsoft and Yahoo.

*Reuters*

## SYNTECH PROPERTIES INC.

We are a real estate property developer based in Cebu City. We are urgently looking for suitably qualified candidates for the positions of:

### (1) ASSISTANT ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Male or Female 30 – 40 years old
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science – Major in Accounting & a Certified Public Accountant
- With minimum 5 years Accounting & Audit work experience at supervisory and/or managerial position
- Must be well-versed with the latest Philippine Accounting Standards and Philippine Tax Laws & Regulations relating to real estate
- Must possess good analytical and communication skills and able to interact well with people at all levels
- Able to handle workload under pressure

### (2) SENIOR / ACCOUNTING OFFICER

- Male or Female 28 – 35 years old
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science – Major in Accounting
- 5 years work experience in accounting and audit
- Knowledgeable in Philippines tax laws and rulings
- Must possess good communication skills and able to interact well with people at different levels
- Has the ability to handle work under pressure and work with minimum supervision

INTERESTED APPLICANTS PLEASE WRITE-IN OR E-MAIL YOUR DETAILED RESUME WITH A RECENT PHOTO, STATING PRESENT AND EXPECTED SALARY BY 21 MAY 2007 TO:

HR DEPARTMENT
SYNTECH PROPERTIES, INC.
CITYLIGHTS GARDENS – SALES OFFICE
VETERANS DRIVE, NIVEL HILLS, APAS
CEBU CITY 6000, PHILIPPINES
E-MAIL: belnebria@syntech-phil.com

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**PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5285

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

| *Various Sizes of Gate Valves Under FGT 72231-35 & GH 708812-13* | *Approved budget* |
|---|---|
| Schedule I | PHP 10,110,000.00 |
| Schedule 2 | PHP 24,600,000.00 |
| Schedule 3 | PHP 34,710,000.00 |

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Roderick R. Cabantog** starting **May 7, 2007**, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 2,000.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **May 16, 2007, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property and Materials Management Division, at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m.** (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock Time) on **May 30, 2007**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

**Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I**

(PDI–May 7, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**
Region IX, Zamboanga Peninsula
Normal Road, Baliwasan, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. 991-1907 / Fax No. 991-5975

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Education, Regional Office IX, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites cooperative (suppliers/manufacturers/contractors/distributors) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following Project:

*Name of Project* : *Supply and Delivery of CY 2006 School Furniture*
*Location* : *Regional Office IX, Zamboanga City*
*Brief Description* : *Desk (1 table with 2 chairs) with teachers tables and chairs, Secondary Armchairs with teachers tables and chairs*
*ABC & Funding Source* : *P6,092,000.00 / DepED*
*Contract Duration* : *120 days from the date of acceptance of Notice to Proceed*

The Bidding shall be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the IRR of RA 9184 and is restricted to cooperatives duly registered with the Cooperatives Development Authority (CDA). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check in Section II, Instruction to Bidders in the Bidding Documents shall be used.

The prospective bidder must have an experience of having completed within the last five years (reckon from date of bid opening) a single contract that is similar to the contract to be bid, and whose value, adjusted to current prices using the wholesale consumer price index, must be at least fifty percent (50%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid per package.

The schedule of BAC activities are as follows:

| ACTIVITY | DATE | VENUE |
|---|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | May 7 to May 15, 2007 | Office of the ARD |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference | May 16, 2007 at 2:00 pm | Office of the ARD |
| 3. Deadline of Submission of Bids | May 28, 2007 at 1:00 pm | Office of the ARD |
| 4. Opening of Bids | May 28, 2007 | Office of the ARD |

Bid documents will be available only to Prospective Bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 3,000.00 to the Cashier, DepEd Regional Office IX, Zamboanga City.

The DepEd Regional Office IX, reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at anytime prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) **OHAM A. ATARA**
BAC Chairperson

(PDI–May 7 & 10, 2007)

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Republic of the Philippines
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM**
Provincial Agrarian Reform Office
Nacoco, Calapan City
Tel. No. 043-288 4886

## NOTICE OF COVERAGE

**TO WHOM THIS MAY PRESENT:**

Pursuant to Section 7 of R.A. 6657, otherwise known as the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, the Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), hereby subject under the coverage of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) the following landholdings in the Province of Oriental Mindoro described below:

| Name of Landowner | Title No. | Lot No. | Survey No. | Area (has.) | Location |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Armando Ansaldo | T-62437 | | | 23.8552 | San Roque, Bulalacao |
| Andrea Atienza | T-4703 | | | 15.5495 | Maujao, Bulalacao |
| Phoebe Lalina | T-18871 | 5 | | 10.1458 | Poblacion, Bulalacao |
| Antero Parol | T-18875 | | | 13.9785 | Balatasan, Bulalacao |
| Benito Sandico | T-56341 | | | 11.3481 | Poblacion, Bulalacao |
| Eugenio Pedroza | RP-161(P-858) | 1590 | Pls 138 | 10.4084 | Labasan, Bongabong |
| Feliciano Salvacion | RP-89 (P-1044) | 1592 | Pls 138 | 9.0951 | Maliboog, Bongabong |
| Ireneo de Luna | J-20 (P-19) | 550 | Csd-177 | 23.2392 | Maliboog, Bongabong |
| Manuel Querubin | P-3051 | 19 | Gss-745 | 9.2962 | Carmundo, Bongabong |
| Demson Arriola | RT-171(T44609) | | | 11.2500 | Anilao,Bongabong |
| Julita Ilao Uriarte | J-175(T-28335) | 680 | | 18.6377 | Anilao, Bongabong |
| Eligio Ebora | P-2924 | 58 | Pls 47 | 7.3086 | Sigangi, Bongabong |
| Fermin Masilungan | RT-174(P-7935) | | Psu-205661 | 12.9150 | Carmundo, Bongabong |
| Hermingildo Manalo | RT-9(T-9309) | | | 16.1258 | Cawayan, Bongabong |
| Perfecto Monteras | RT-109 (T-7046) | | | 5.3060 | Carmundo, Bongabong |
| Lydia Tanedo | P-3132 | 1277 | Pls 138 | 7.7982 | Kaligtasan, Bongabong |
| Rufino Evora | RT-148 (P-2138) | 55 | Pls 47 | 15.0046 | Carmundo, Bongabong |
| Benjamin Ariola | T-167 (T-44608) | | | 11.2250 | Anilao, Bongabong |
| Rufino Bicol | RT-44(T-76300) | | | 8.7290 | Libertead, Bongabong |
| Wencislao Rayos | RP-43(P-7239) | 133 | Gss 583 | 8.4038 | Bukal Bongabong |
| Arcadio de Guzman | RT-89 (P-12404) | | | 7.6484 | Carmundo, Bongabong |
| Russel Briones | P-1376 | 1228 | Pls-138 | 9.1546 | San Jose, Bongabong |
| Rosalina Caringal | RT-100 (T-78185) | | | 6.9766 | Kaligtasan, Bongabong |
| Ambrocio Diola | RP-98 (P-6957) | 57 | Gs-583 | 11.0595 | San Juan, Bongabong |
| Engracia Fallarme | RT-200 (T-3339) | | | 19.0839 | Anilao, Bongabong |
| Agapito Madali | P-704 | 3179 | Csd-506-D | 6.8411 | Morente, Bongabong |
| Felomino Ramirez | RT-170(T-30076) | | | 6.2699 | Masaguisi, Bongabong |
| Lucio Mascarinas | RP-90 (P-9533) | | | 7.1997 | Sta. Cruz, Bongabong |
| Pedro Constantino | RP-154(T-3267) | H-95051 | | 17.2375 | Sagana, Bongabong |
| Leopoldo Gatarin | P-2810 | 1275 | Pls 138 | 8.0548 | San Jose, Bongabong |
| Paulina Sena | RT-61(T-75302) | | | 7.6151 | Sta. Cruz, Bongabong |
| Augusto Valencia | T-7311 | | | 18.4162 | Pambisan Malaki, Pinamalayan |
| Sps. Roberto Claudio and Corazon Pe Benito | RT-102(T-608301) | 1056 | PLS-83 | 9.1658 | Maliangcog, Pinamalayan |
| Victoria de Rosales | RT-135 (T-15532) | | | 9.4808 | Casiligan, Pola |
| Herminio Bautista and Hilaria Belen Bautista | T-13927 | F | Pcs-4A-000505 | 10.5000 | Mabuhay I, Socorro |
| Librado Lagustan | RT-132(T-20060) | E-2 | Psd-52480 | 5.3333 | Matungao, Socorro |
| Erlinda Torres | T-26604 | 1 | Pcs-04-001003 | 9.8542 | Mangangan II, Baco |
| Joselito Yap | T-6648 | H-228176 | | 16.9964 | Ilag, San Teodoro |
| Benjamin Soriano | RT-152(T-54001) | | | 11.5506 | Ilag, San Teodoro |
| Pedro & Anita Rabulan | RT-97 (T-72727) | 1601-B | Psd-162246 | 8.6723 | Sta. Isabel, Calapan |
| Lucilo Atienza | RT-33(T-53085) | 840 | | 7.8740 | Balino, Calapan |
| Enrique Nuestro and Nelia Zaraspe | RT-47 (T-37478) | 227-B | Psd-98262 | 9.3528 | Bongabong |
| Anacleto Bruno and Raymundo Pantoja | RT-163(T-6472) | 96-A | Psd-41383 | 8.6974 | Sumagui, Bansud |
| Gerardo Andaya | P-3425 | | | 6.5190 | Conrazon, Bansud |
| Gerardo de Chavez | T-1228 | 432-B | Psd-4A-00568 | 8.9982 | Sta. Cruz, Bongabong |
| Fraxedes de Padua | P-3460 | | | 9.8834 | Carmundo, Bongabong |
| Lourdes Ylagan | RT-84(T-68456) | | | 22.8804 | San Jose, Bongabong |

Whenever applicable, the landowner has the right to:

1. Apply for exemption or exclusion from CARP coverage;
2. Choose the retention area not exceeding five (5) hectares as prescribed;
3. Nominate the children who may qualify as preferred beneficiary;
4. Submit statement of production or income which shall be considered in the determination of the land value pursuant to Section 17 of R.A. 6657

Such rights shall be exercised within thirty (30) days from the date of this publication.

For your reaction or more information on this regard, you may write or visit the DAR Municipal Office covering your property/ies.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) CAROLINA LB. BASA
Provincial Agrarian Reform Officer

(PDI–May 7, 2007)

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### WE ARE IN NEED OF:

## 2 COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATES
## 2 COMMERCE GRADUATES

MUST BE:
FEMALE, SINGLE,
AND BET. 22-30 YRS. OLD

BRING COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ TO:

**453-455 T. PINPIN ST.,**
**BINONDO, MANILA**

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Republic of the Philippines
**PROVINCE OF LA UNION**
San Fernando City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contract:

| NAME OF CONTRACT | LOCATION | BRIEF DESCRIPTION | APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (P) | CONTRACT DURATION |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. DRUGS & MEDICINES | Provincial Capitol Building, City of San Fernando, La Union | Purchases of Drugs & Medicines, Medical/ Surgical, Laboratory, X-Ray and Dental Supplies for LUMC and District Hospitals | 10,472,972.24 | 180CD |
| 2. MEDICAL/SURGICAL | | | 4,889,872.40 | 180CD |
| 3. LAB. SUPPLIES | | | 2,440,686.00 | 180CD |
| 4. X-RAY SUPPLIES | | | 422,270.00 | 180CD |
| 5. DENTAL SUPPLIES | | | 56,458.70 | 180CD |

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

| *Activities* | *Schedule* |
|---|---|
| 1. Issuance of Bid Documents | May 2-10, 2007 |
| 2. Pre-Bid Conference | May 11, 2007, 9:00 AM, Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC |
| 3. Opening of Bids a. Drugs & Medicines | May 21, 2007, 9:00 AM, Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC |
| b. Medical/Surgical Supplies | May 22, 2007, 9:00 AM, Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC |
| c. Laboratory Supplies | May 23, 2007, 9:00 AM, Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC |
| d. X-Ray Supplies | May 23, 2007, 1:00 PM, Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC |
| e. Dental Supplies | May 23, 2007, 1:00 PM, Diego Silang Hall, Capitol Bldg., SFC |
| 4. Bid Evaluation | May 24, 2007 to June 6, 2007 |
| 5. Post-Qualification | May 24, 2007 to June 6, 2007 |
| 6. Notice of Award | May 24, 2007 to June 6, 2007 |

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of: for **Drugs and Medicines = P2,000; Medical/Surgical Supplies = P1,500; Laboratory Supplies = P1,000.00; Dental Supplies = P500.00 and X-Ray Supplies = P500.00** to the **Office of the Provincial Treasurer's Cashier.**
The **PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF LA UNION** assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **DR. GEOFFREY S. TILAN**
BAC Chairman

Contact Person:

**MS. CATHERINE E. FRANCO**
BAC TWG Chairman/Assistant Budget Officer
Tel. No. (072) 700-5309

(PDI - Apr. 30 & May 7, 2007)

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**BUYING**
ROLEX • Patek Philippe • AP
Panerai • IWC • Omega • Cartier
Also Diamonds and unusual watches
**09178884040**
**7269687**
email: worldwatch@gmail.com

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*PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE*
PAWN*BUY*SELL
**WATCHES**
Jewelry & Diamonds
**BEST APPRAISAL**
Secondo Glorietta 1
Tel# 894-0282
Agencia de Makati
Tel# 889-7956

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**BUY • SELL • PAWN**
**ROLEX**
& other SWISS SWATCHES
**JEWELRY**
**DIAMONDS**
BEST PRICE
SPOT CASH
8341572
8316712
09178141967

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**JOB** *Market*
Read it every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

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BOARD OF INVESTMENTS
DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

## NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **SALMAT PHILIPPINES, INC.** is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as **New IT Export Service Firm in the Field of Content Conversion on a Non-Pioneer** Status with project/plant site located at **W9 Sunblest Realty Compound, Km. 23 West Service Road, Cupang, Muntinlupa City.**

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and Registration Department

(PDI–May 7, 2007)

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**07 URVAN ESCAPADE**
**10 HOURS**
**P1,800**
**WITH DRIVER**
**7878776 7964377**
**09213497170**

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**BERTHAPHIL, INC.**

Notice is given that Demand Draft No. 001372 in the amount of US$7,500 under the name of RIVKIN RADLER LLP was lost since February 19, 2007.

(PDI - May 4-10, 2007)

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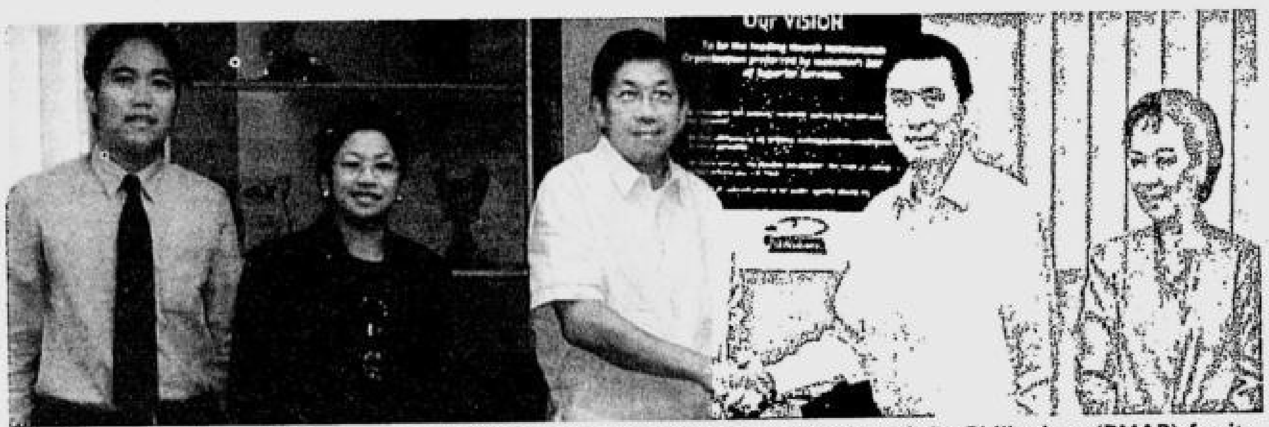
**More Classified Ads:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Land Bank | A26 |
| BENECO | A11 |



**Maxicare recently sealed its agreement with People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) for its participation in the 44th PMAP Annual Conference as a Principal Sponsor. Maxicare President and CEO Jose Pastor Z. Puno (center) and PMAP President Marquez O. Go (second from right) formalize partnership between Maxicare and PMAP for this year's PMAP Annual Conference. Also present (from left) were Maxicare assistant vice president – Renewal Business Christian G. Cristobal, Maxicare senior vice president – Sales, Marketing and Customer Care Josephine C. Aguilar and PMAP chair on Ways and Means Lina A. Aseneta.**

# OBITUARIES

*An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.*

*Always caring...* **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

**OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:**
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

**WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS**
**and bank-to-bank payments**

**DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT**
**MESSAGE OF THANKS**
**DEATH ANNIVERSARY**
**REQUIEMS**
**FREE OBIT DESIGN**

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The Family of the late

## BENNIE K. BELTRAN

Who passed away on May 4, 2007 wish to announce: Funeral Mass will be today, **May 7, 2007**, at 1:30 PM at Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish in Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City. Interment will follow at the Himlayang Pilipino after the said mass.

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**"I am the resurrection and life.**
**He who believes in Me will live,**
**even though he dies;**
**and whoever believes in Me**
**will never die."**
John 11:25-26

---

## FLORA MOLINA VARGAS

Born January 14, 1956
*Peacefully joined our Creator on May 5, 2007*

Her parents, **Juan** and **Nieves**, sisters **Sr. Niceta Vargas, O.S.A., Dr. Pura Vargas** and members of the Teresian Association invite you to join **Flor** in her prayer:

> ***"Come, Holy Spirit, send us from heaven***
> ***a ray of Your light.***
> ***Come, Father of the poor, come, Giver of***
> ***gifts, come light our hearts..."***

Her remains lie in state at the Saint Pedro Poveda College Chapel, EDSA corner Poveda Street, Quezon City. Funeral Mass will be on May 9, Wednesday, at 8:00 a.m. Interment will follow at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

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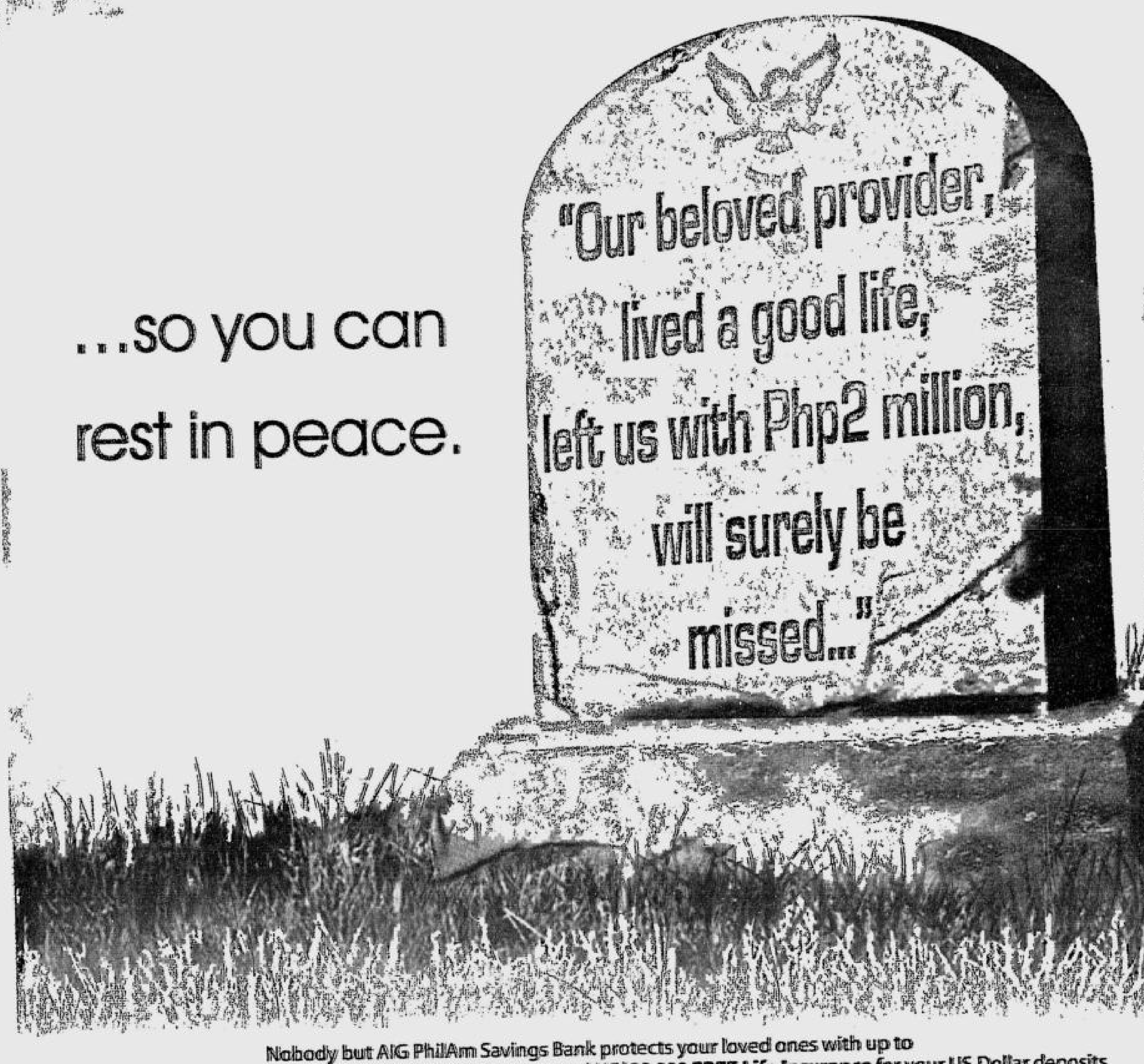
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# 3 more tax bills sought

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE WILL SEEK the passage in Congress of three more tax bills, which are expected to bring in an additional P10 billion in revenues a year.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves said these include the rationalization of fiscal incentives, the implementation of a simplified net income tax system (Snits) and the fiscal responsibility bill.

He said the rationalization of fiscal incentives could bring in P5 billion to P8 billion in additional tax payments, while Snits could generate close to P5 billion.

The fiscal responsibility bill is not intended to generate revenues, but is expected to improve the government's budget allocation system.

The rationalization of fiscal incentives, which has been proposed as early as 1994, entails the lifting of redundant tax- and duty-free privileges granted to businesses.

Based on DOF's definition, fiscal incentives become redundant if the recipients would have invested in the country anyway even without the tax and duty perks.

Under the Snits, a uniform income tax rate shall be imposed on individual taxpayers. Corporate taxpayers, meanwhile, shall be required to adopt a uniform rate of tax deduction to cover their expenses, which are currently deducted from their taxable income.

The fiscal responsibility bill, on the other hand, will require government entities to identify sources of revenues before a project or a program is implemented.

Teves said the Philippine government's economic team promised foreign investors during a recent roadshow in Europe and the United States that it would lobby for the passage of these measures within the year.

The government is pinning its hopes of achieving a balanced budget next year on its ability to generate more revenues.

The government's efforts to reduce the budget deficit were challenged by the below-par fiscal performance during the first quarter of the year.

The government's deficit hit P52 billion as of March, exceeding the official ceiling of P45.8 billion, due mainly to a shortfall in tax collection.

Teves said the government would look for additional sources of revenues, including new tax-related legislative measures and sale of state-owned assets to cover the gap.

# NDC to put up ₱1.2-B tollway

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT CO., THE GOVernment's investment arm, will invest in a P1.2-billion road project linking Daang Hari in Cavite to the Southern Luzon Expressway, said Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila.

Favila, who is also NDC chair, said Circumferential Road No. 6 or C-6, would stretch for 4 km and would cut through the New Bilibid Prison property in Muntinlupa City.

"This would be a tollway that will run parallel to the Aguinaldo national highway and will link the SLEX from Susana Heights to the Cavite coastal road," the trade chief said.

He said NDC, through a corporate vehicle named Alabang-Sto. Tomas Development Inc., planned to build the tollway and then sell it to a private operator.

Fully owned by NDC, Asdi's main purpose is "to develop, package, structure, invest in or manage investments in infrastructure projects and commercial ventures related to the development of network of roads and highways.

Asdi was also formed to do the same for the development of bridges, buildings, structures of all kinds, steel works, wood masonry, mechanical and electrical, and excavation.

"Initiatives toward the C-6 project have started and we expect to tackle the usual issues such as right-of-way acquisition," Favila said.

The C-6 project is expected to cut travel time between Metro Manila and Cavite and Laguna.

Also, the project is meant to improve the Calabarzon (Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Rizal and Quezon) area's competitiveness as an investment destination.

Of the projected cost, NDC plans to provide P263 million in equity with the balance of P973 million to come from debt financing.

According to an NDC project brief, C-6 is awaiting the Department of Public Work and Highway's endorsement to be a toll road.

BUSINESS Monday

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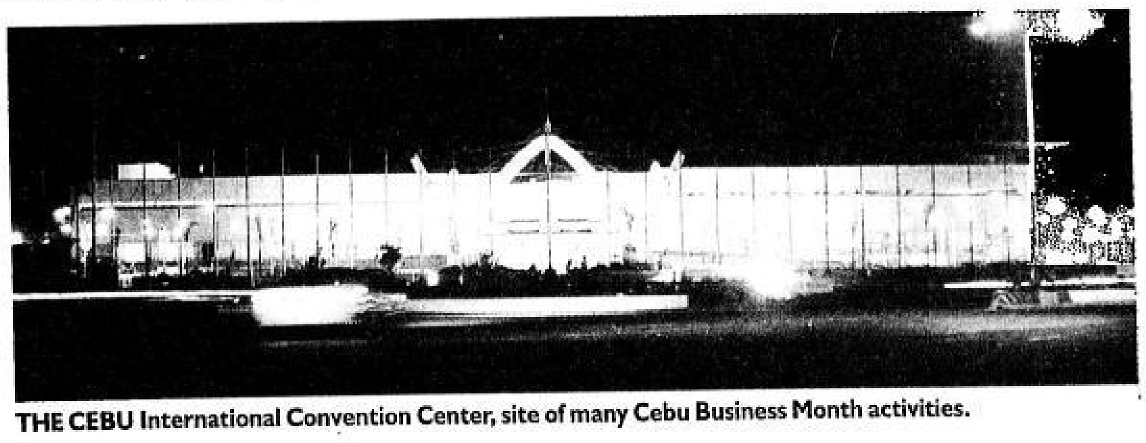
*Business Features Editor* **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

THE SINULOG festival always draws a crowd.



THE CEBU International Convention Center, site of many Cebu Business Month activities.

# Cebu gears up for more investments

**By Tina Arceo-Dumlao**

CEBU CITY—THE SUCCESSFUL staging of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Cebu in January this year put the Queen City of the South on the minds of potential local and foreign investors.

The Cebu Chamber of Commerce and Industry is harnessing its resources to make sure that Cebu stays there—permanently, if possible.

CCCI president Francis O. Monera gives three reasons why Cebu should be at the top of investors' minds: Its huge tourism potential, wealth of talent in information and communication technology, and thriving and growing tribe of small and medium scale enterprises.

These sectors will be put on stage during the series of events highlighting Cebu Business Month in June this year under the theme, "Let's Go, Cebu!," CBM committee chair Samuel Chioson tells the INQUIRER.

## Tourism

Cebu is already attracting droves of tourists, primarily the Koreans, Japanese and Filipino *balikbayans* who flock to its many beaches close to the city center.

But tourism cluster head Mila Espina says in an interview that the chamber, in cooperation with the other groups involved in tourism, is crafting a program to give these tourists more reasons to go to Cebu.

One of these programs is the promotion of heritage tourism, capitalizing on the fact that Cebu is the Philippines' first city since it was here where the Spanish colonizers first settled.

THE MACTAN Shangri-la is one of Cebu's top tourist spots.

Thus the tourist itinerary can be expanded from just the beaches in Mactan to include the Basilica de St. Niño in Cebu City, and further out to the old houses in Carcar and the pueblo in Argao.

"By promoting countryside tourism, and showcasing our different museums and churches, more people will benefit from tourism," Espina says.

The chamber will also consider a more aggressive promotion of Cebuano festivals, such as the Mango festival and the Sinulog festival, so that these can be put on the tourists' agenda for the year.

This will entail close cooperation with the local government units running these festivals, the communities and the people themselves.

She adds that bringing the benefits of tourism to the countryside will likewise help strengthen the culture of tourism among Cebuanos and the brand of Filipino hospitality.

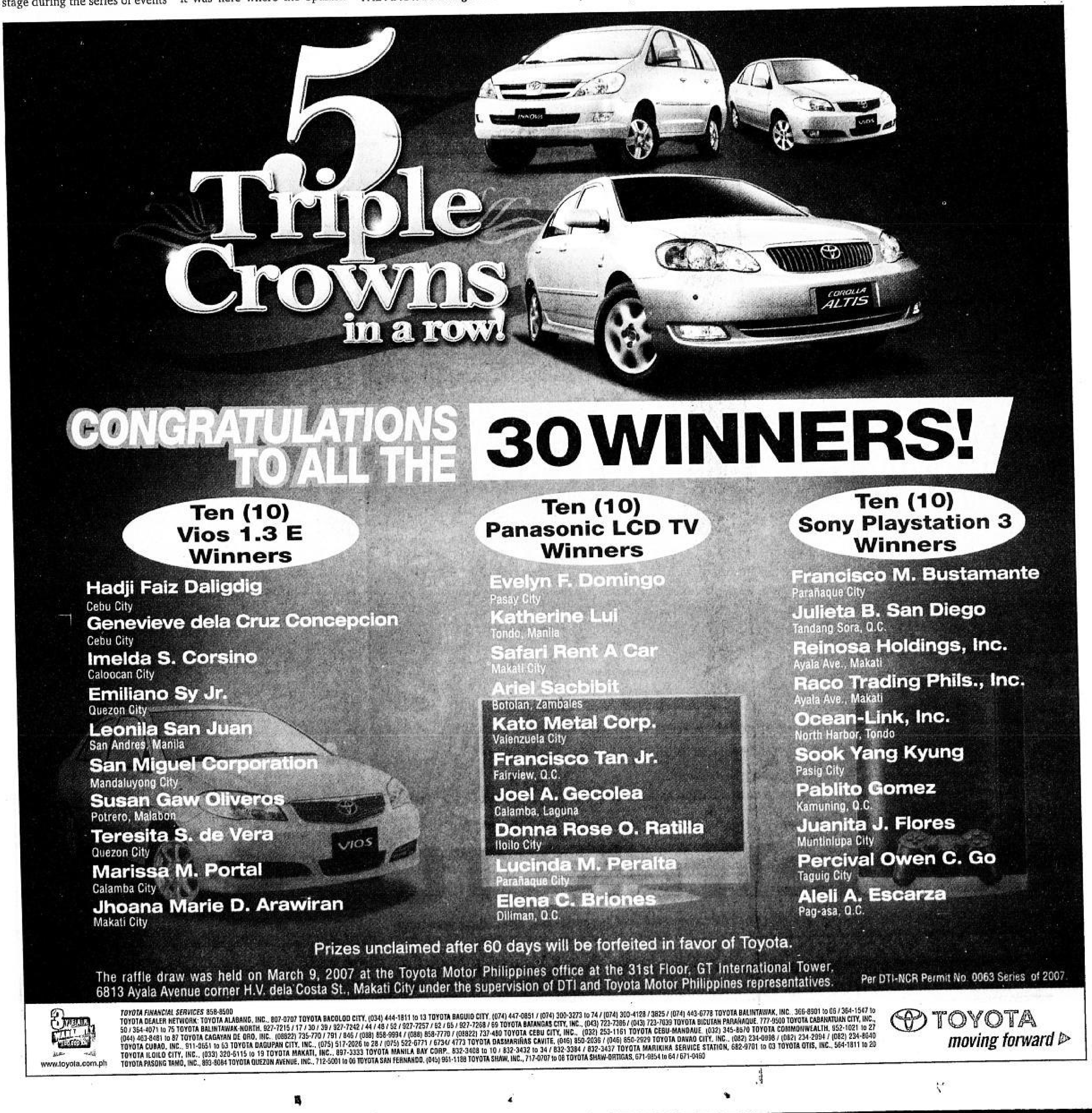
"Very few Cebuanos believe they can gain from tourism, through this program, we hope to change that mindset," she says.

Cebu is currently one of the top tourist destinations, with arrivals growing by 5-10 percent a year.

Espina says that the expanded tourism program under the brand "Inspiring Cebu" will target new markets, such as Singapore, Taiwan, China and Europe.

Cebu's wealth of possibilities to offer tourists will be discussed during the CBM Asean Tourism Congress to be held at the Cebu International Convention Center

CEBU/ B2-2



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**Leonila San Juan**
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**San Miguel Corporation**
Mandaluyong City
**Susan Gaw Oliveros**
Potrero, Malabon
**Teresita S. de Vera**
Quezon City
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Makati City

Ten (10) Panasonic LCD TV Winners

**Evelyn F. Domingo**
Pasay City
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Tondo, Manila
**Safari Rent A Car**
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**Francisco Tan Jr.**
Fairview, Q.C.
**Joel A. Gecolea**
Calamba, Laguna
**Donna Rose O. Ratilla**
Iloilo City
**Lucinda M. Peralta**
Parañaque City
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Parañaque City
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Ayala Ave., Makati
**Ocean-Link, Inc.**
North Harbor, Tondo
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Department of Agriculture
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| Program Outline: | Topic Overview! |
|---|---|
| May 11, 2007, Friday | |
| Procurement Outsourcing and Strategies | Learn the strategies to determine the right outsourcing approach: analyze the opportunities and challenges of outsourcing specific functions in the supply chain. |
| "e-Procurement" | Provides information on the different types of eProcurement such as electronic reverse auctions, electronic sourcing, electronic catalog buying and the like. |
| Inventing Value in Warehousing and Logistics | Learn how to carefully embraces useful technologies and capitalize on them to invent value through greater heights in quality, productivity and profitability. |
| Effective Transportation Management | Provide knowledge on the importance of effective logistic planning and implementation, increasing your competitiveness, eliminating costly delays and inefficiencies by enhancing freight and customs management. |
| Effective Distribution Management | Learn the effective basic distribution management, its roles and importance in the logistics businesses. |
| Enhancing Fleet Productivity and Flexibility Through GPS | Learn the 3rd eye GPS vehicle monitoring systems and use it for more flexible and real time experience. |
| May 12, 2007 Saturday | |
| Trends in 3rd Party Logistics (3PL) | Provides an overview of the 3rd party logistics marketplace wherein you will learn how to assess the pros, cons, correct application and the criteria in choosing the best 3rd party logistics partner. |
| Warehouse Re-Lay-outing | Learn the importance and significant effects of re-lay-outing on the company efficiency in its operations. |
| Ethics and Good Governance: The Sarbanes Oxley Act | Overview of the Sarbanes-Oxley. Act and how the policies will facilitate our business dealings |
| RFID Technology | Learn how RFID work in core warehouse functions such as receiving, picking, storing & shipping to increase performance of your supply chain |
| The Challenges of Global Warehousing | Provide short overview of the role of warehousing in effective logistics management and emphasize its importance in gaining competitive advantage in today's global business arena. |
| "The Certainty of Uncertainty Managing Complex Risk in the Supply Chain" | Provide fundamental knowledge of Risk Management to meet company's objectives & customer expectations within allocated cost, time, resource, & performance constraints. |

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# Filipino coffee flies high

IT JUST SEEMS SO RIGHT—ALL-FILIPINO coffee served on the Philippines' flag carrier. Coffee aficionados onboard all Philippine Airlines international flights can now enjoy the Figaro brew. Whether one is flying first class, business or economy, he's sure to get the same great taste of brewed coffee ala Figaro.

Wanting only the best for its clientele, Philippine Airlines meticulously searched or the finest coffee to serve them.

Hearing that PAL was busy tasting the world's coffees, Figaro joined the bidding process and gave them a taste of what the local coffee industry could offer.

Seeing this as an opportunity to showcase Philippine coffee and maybe, for the country to regain its leadership in the international markets, Figaro coffee expert Robert Francisco and branding guru Chit Juan went to great lengths to give PAL what they wanted.

Does coffee taste the same on terra firma and up in the clouds? Robert says, "Given correct handling and the same ratio of measurement, coffee should taste the same in both settings because altitude does not affect the taste of coffee."

"But altitude affects our taste buds," Chit adds. "At 35,000 feet, food and coffee could seem bland or lacking in taste."

After months of sampling, Figaro's classico passed PAL's rigorous selection process.

That only goes to prove what Robert and Chit know in their hearts: That their coffee would hold its own against established foreign brands.

And since Figaro coffee is proudly Philippine-grown and processed, PAL patrons are assured of fresh roasted coffee.

In fact, PAL has their stock of coffee delivered on a weekly basis.

It's also noteworthy that Figaro carries organically grown coffee specifically for PAL use, helping communities around the country to get better value for their crop while allowing international passengers to enjoy this much-loved brew.

Asked how they did it, Robert reveals, "It's a combination. We have the passion of the Italian style of roasting and German technology. We went a step further but used local coffee." And going the extra mile is typical of a company in constant pursuit of new ways to improve their coffee and everything else that goes with it.

So landing the PAL contract was not Figaro's final destination. It was just the start of the journey as they embarked on studying how to fine-tune their coffee to the passengers' utmost sipping pleasure.

Now on its second year of circling the globe on PAL, Figaro still keeps their ears to the ground. "When we find ourselves on PAL flights," Chit shares, "we conduct interviews with the crew, and ask how they use our coffee in the galley during rush times, after meals and whether they encounter problems with the quality or packaging."

It's been an interesting relationship all around. The Philippines' flag carrier is proud to be serving Figaro just as the country's leading coffee company is proud to be carried by PAL.

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# Cebu gears up for more investments

From page B2-1

from June 14-15.

She adds, however, that the local tourists will not be left behind, as programs will also be in place to get more Filipinos to see Cebu, and make it a gateway to other provinces with more than enough sights and experience to offer tourists, such as Siquijor and Bohol.

## SMEs

As many as nine of 10 companies in the Philippines are considered small and medium scale, with an asset size of less than P50 million.

This is true also for Cebu, although firms here have already developed a reputation for world-class quality, thanks to its exports of furniture and fashion accessories.

SME cluster chair Jay Aldeguer, founder and operator of the Islands Souvenirs clothes line, however, wants Cebuano SMEs to venture into more productive sectors, such as in information and communications technology and tourism.

Aldeguer is also helpful that with the series of activities lined up at the forum, more Cebuanos, especially the young, will be encouraged to consider entrepreneurship as a career option.

One of the highlights of the SME activities during the Cebu Business Month is the launch of the provincial version of GoNegosyo, a program promoting entrepreneurship developed by RFM Corp. CEO Presidential Adviser on Entrepreneurship Jose Ma. Concepcion III.

"The ambition is to fill a plane with entrepreneurs from Manila and bring them to Cebu to encourage people to go into entrepreneurship," Aldeguer says.

But Cebuano business people who have made it big will also figure prominently in the SME discussions.

"We have so many Cebuano entrepreneurs who are so successful but very low key, through this forum, we want to give them a venue to showcase their skills and what they can do," Aldeguer says.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to come during the CBM Entrepreneurship: GoNegosyo Probinsiya on June 26 at the CICC to award Cebu's 10 Most Inspiring Entrepreneurs.

In terms of sectors, Aldeguer says he is bullish on the further growth of Cebuano SMEs in the relatively new food and retail sectors, and the traditional key areas of fashion accessories and furniture.

Through the series of discussions, Aldeguer is confident that the SMEs in the fashion accessories and furniture sectors will find new ideas, designs and way of producing their products, to keep their hold on the lucrative export markets.

## ICT

Cebu's information and communications (ICT) technology sector is far from limited to call center and business process outsourcing operations.

Long before call centers and BPO became part of everyday language, Cebu has already carved a niche in high-end software programming and research and development.

This is why Cebu has both an ICT sector—which is defined to include software programming and an Information technology enabled services (ITES) sector, which covers call center operations, BPO, medical transcription and even animation.

Foreign firms have certainly taken notice, which explains the presence of names such as Epson and Lexmark in Cebu.

CBM-ICT chair Bonifacio D. Belen says that the chamber will capitalize on Cebu's strength in the sector and attempt to bring the industry closer to the rest of Asia for greater collaboration.

Belen explains that with more jobs to be outsourced from markets such as Europe and the United States, Asia can come together as a united front and come up with a package of services that will cater to these markets' needs.

He says the Philippines, for instance, is recognized for its strength in call centers and the handling of backroom operations, such as human resource tracking. Taiwan, on the other hand, is known for its innovation while India is a force to reckon with in marketing.

Belen says that by bringing the sectors together during the Cebu ICT 2007 International Conference and Exhibition, the ICT sectors of the different countries can explore ways they can do business together.

The international conference will be held at the CICC and Shangri-la's Mactan Island Resort and Spa from June 26 to 28.

# Self-discovery series starts May 20

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DSC has prepared dynamic discussions and exercises. On May 20, there will be followed "Patterns of Relationships" to better understand emotional and mental programs in the subconscious that affect our relationships with people; "Coping with Stress" on June 17 aims to help participants harness stress with success; and "Letting Go and Moving Forward" on July 15 will deal with issues of the past.

All sessions will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Treasure Trove, 3rd level of Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Each workshop cost P750 inclusive of food. Reservation fee is P100.

Da Seekers Cove is a counseling and training center owned by Shinette Garbanzos, a psychologist and HRD practitioner for over 30 years.

She is an expert in gestalt, dream therapy, enhancement of self-esteem, stress management, conflict resolution and person-centered approach to learning. Likewise, the center's counselors and instructors are competent professionals gifted with sensitivity and prescience.

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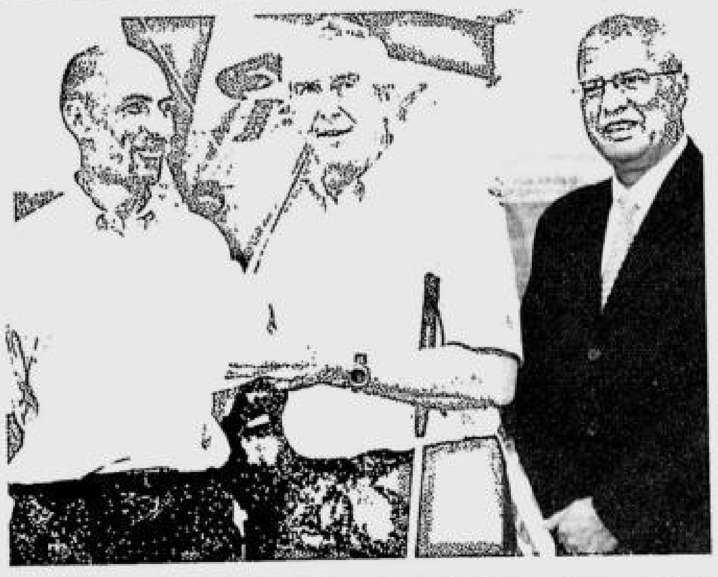

**STANDARD** Chartered Bank president Eugene Ellis (right) hosted dinner for blind British microlight pilot Miles Hilton-Barber (middle) with Jon Cook. The bank recently unveiled the latest stage of its "Seeing is Believing" program, which aims to raise $10 million by World Sight Day 2010.

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## G&W Discusses Build-To-Own System in FINEX Real Estate Forum

Upon the invitation of the Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines (FINEX)-an organization composed of more than 700 executives of financial institutions, corporations, government and academe-Architect Daniel Terence Yu spoke candidly about the state of the real estate industry in the Philippines.

Arch. Yu, chief executive architect of G&W Architects, stated a persuasive case detailing how his firm's pioneering Build-To-Own (BTO) system has influenced the future direction of the real estate industry. During his informative talk in the forum held at the Hotel Inter-Continental in Makati City, Arch. Yu disputed the old maxim, "Location is everything."

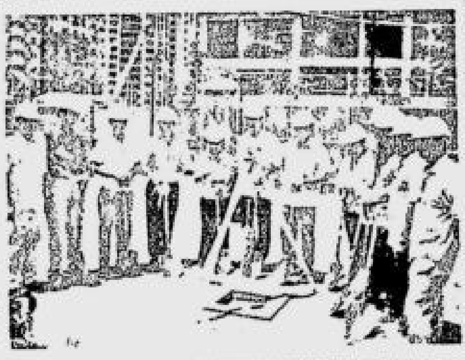
While obviously still crucial, he explained, a prime location nonetheless proves useless if homebuyers simply cannot afford to purchase units there. Even worse, what good is a first-rate location if the development project itself fails, leaving homebuyers stranded?

Arch. Yu lamented the typical solutions tendered by other developments: smaller units and quality downgrades, all while retaining high per-square-meter. G&W, he stated, insists that homebuyers are provided with decent housing. Its BTO system connects homebuyers directly with construction professionals-namely, the architects, contractors, and brokers-to bring down costs by 40 per cent.

The BTO system also protects homebuyers with its innovative use of a trustee bank system that ensures their payments are used solely for the construction of the building. Overseen by a third-party project manager, the funds cannot be disbursed to unrelated uses, such as the servicing of previous development debts.

Other speakers in the forum included Professor Danilo Antonio of AIM, Mr. Gonzalo Bongolan (Home Guaranty Corporation president), Mr. David Leechiu (Leechiu & Associates president and manager), and Ms. Patricia May T. Siy (Security Bank, Corporate Relationship Group senior vice president).

Arch. Yu foresees the BTO system as the future trend of homeownership. Already, he said, the system is being mimicked by other developments, offering beleaguered homebuyers a legitimate opportunity to finally own their homes.



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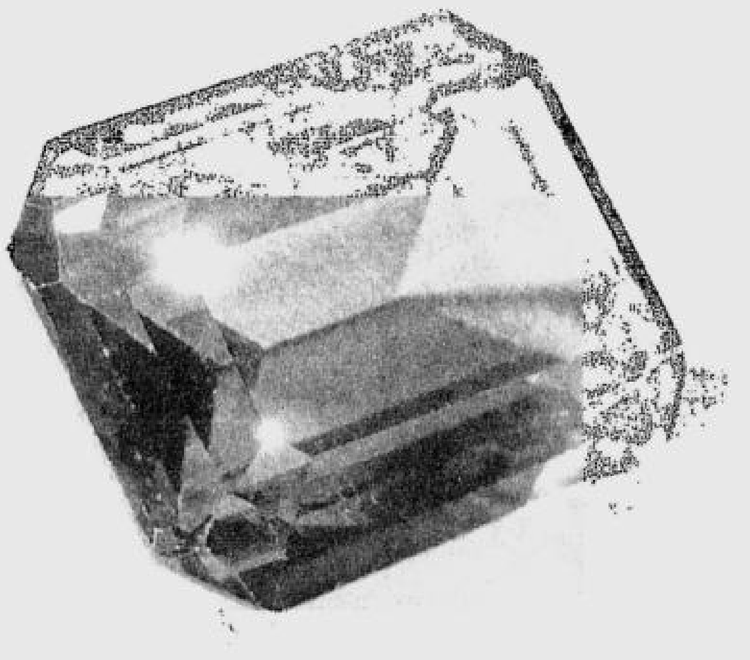

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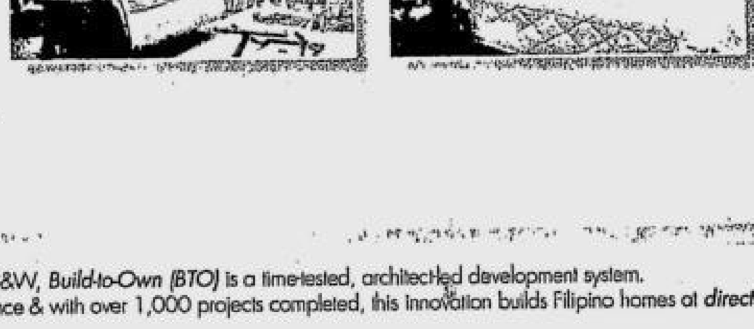

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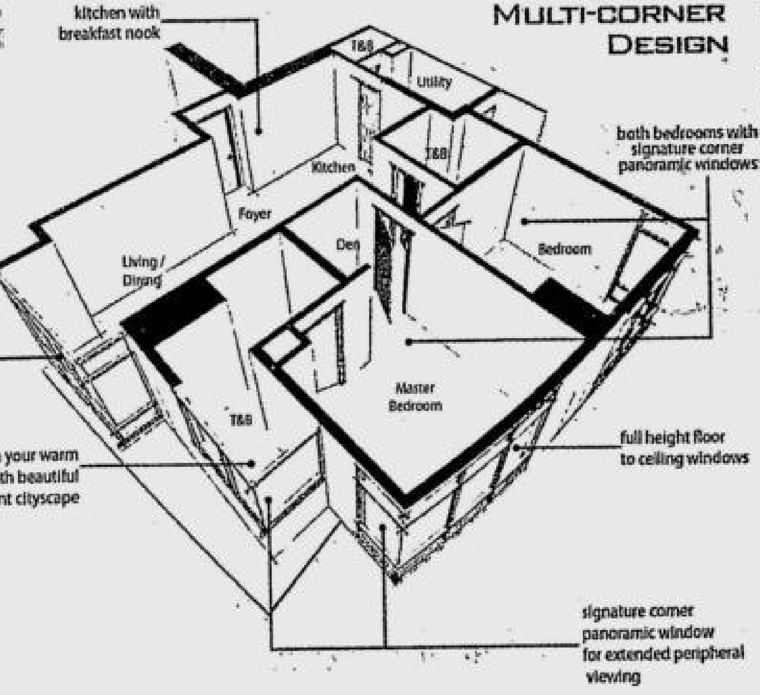
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# Corporate voting rights

**Corporate Securities Info**

*Raul Palabrica*

JUDGMENT DAY FOR THE CANDIDATES FOR various national and local positions is seven days away.

This is also the time of the year when corporations hold their equivalent political exercise, called annual stockholders' meeting, to elect the directors who will hold office for one year.

The owners of a particular class of stocks, i.e., common shares or preferred shares, are entitled to the same voting rights and privileges.

But the weight of their vote in the corporate decision-making process depends on several factors.

## Classes of shares

By tradition and practice, the right to choose the directors and vote on significant corporate issues rests with the holders of common shares.

This is only fair because these shareholders bear the biggest risk in a corporation.

If business is good, they can look forward to fair returns on their investments. If not, they may have to kiss their money goodbye.

When the corporation's financial needs cannot be met by the stockholders' contributions, it usually issues preferred shares to interested investors.

Preferred shares are stocks that guarantee the payment of certain sums of money to their holders at fixed periods of time, subject to the condition that the company has surplus profits to defray that expense.

These shareholders receive the return on their investment ahead of the common shareholders, hence, the name "preferred" stocks.

The trade-off for the special treatment of preferred shareholders is, they do not, as a general rule, participate in the election of the directors.

While preferred shareholders may be "disenfranchised" in the electoral process, they nonetheless have the right to vote on other significant corporate matters.

## Voting pattern

These include, among others, the amendment of the articles of incorporation and bylaws, investment of corporate funds in other businesses, and sale of all or substantially all of the assets of the corporation.

In contrast to the one-voter-one-vote principle observed in national and local elections, the weight of a stockholder's vote (both common and preferred) is directly proportional to the number of shares he holds in his name or in representation of other stockholders.

Thus, if a stockholder owns 55 percent of the capital stock while the rest is owned by, for example, 10 stockholders in equal proportions, the vote of that singular stockholder outweighs the combined votes of the others.

It's a simple application of the majority rule. The stockholder who has put in more money in the corporation should be given a bigger say in the management of its affairs.

Except in relation to the number of shareholdings, the law does not permit any form of discriminatory treatment among similarly situated shareholders.

By way of example, common shares cannot be classified into class "A" and class "B" with "A" shares entitled to one vote per share, while "B" shares are entitled to three votes per share.

Neither is it permissible to give "A" shares the right to vote for five directors and "B" shares are limited to vote one director only.

## Cumulative voting

The procedure followed in the casting and counting of votes in corporate elections is quite unique.

One share of stock is not exactly equivalent to one vote. The law provides for a "cumulative voting" system in the election of directors.

Here's how it works: The number of shares owned by a stockholder is multiplied by the number of directors to be voted on as stated in the articles of incorporation.

So if a stockholder has 100 shares and there are seven directors to be elected, he is entitled to 700 votes.

He can allocate his votes in any of the following ways: 100 votes each for seven directors, or all 700 votes for one director, or spread out the 700 votes among the aspirants for the position.

As long as the number of votes cast by a stockholder does not exceed the cumulative value of his shares, he can vote in any manner he wishes.

This manner of voting is aimed at giving small (in terms of shareholdings) or minority stockholders the opportunity to elect a director of their choice through the combination of their votes.

Like in a political exercise, cumulative voting can accomplish its objective only if the shareholders (or voters) know their rights and are willing to sacrifice their personal interests for the greater good of the corporation (or the country). *(For feedback, please write to rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.)*

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# Harnessing power of partnerships

## Microsoft targets 2 billion PC users by 2015

**By Riza T. Olchondra**

ONE BILLION PERSONAL COMPUTER USERS in 35 years, and counting.

Software giant Microsoft Corp. wants to double the number of PC users to two billion by 2015, and it is realizing its vision by slashing hardware and software prices and funding innovation efforts in emerging markets like the Philippines.

Microsoft says that in the Philippines alone, 55 million people are expected to benefit from efforts to bring the benefits of computer technology to as many people as possible.

### Business target

"I don't want to call it a program or an initiative," Orlando Ayala, senior vice president at Microsoft's emerging segments market development group, said at a roundtable discussion with the INQUIRER. "It is a business target."

Nevertheless, Microsoft aims to help close the digital divide by bringing technology closer to even one-fifth of the estimated five billion people in the world who are not yet realizing the social and economic benefits of computers and the Internet.

"The key elements are in education, local innovation, and jobs and opportunities," Ayala said.

"It took us 35 years to reach the first billion. Instead of taking another 35 years, through partnership (with government and business leaders) and utilizing networks, we can reach the next one billion by 2015," he said.

AYALA

Microsoft Phils. managing director Antonio Javier Jr. and Asia-Pacific vice-president for sales and marketing, Chris Atkinson, who also participated in the roundtable discussion, agreed that making technology more available and usable to more communities would expand Microsoft's business.

### Education

For its education strategy, Ayala said Microsoft is helping teachers use technology to teach more effectively through programs such as Intel's "Teach to the Future" and Unesco's "ICT Competency Standards for Teachers." Microsoft also has its Partners in Learning (PiL) program, which has reached more than 5,000 educators and 470,000 students so far.

Under the PiL, Microsoft recently developed a Math teaching module with the help of the Department of Education. Microsoft is also developing Science and English modules for release within the next few months.

A technical-vocational program that will help 261 public secondary schools integrate information and communications technology in their curricula is also in the works.

Ayala, Javier and Atkinson also said software products will be made cheaper for direct sales to student buyers in the hopes that they will ignite interest in technology in their community.

### Innovation

For Microsoft's innovation strategy, Ayala discussed the creation of more Microsoft Innovation Centers, such as the pioneering facility located in the De La Salle University. This center accommodates teachers and students working to develop software, even open source products.

"In this way we can help develop the local software industry," Ayala said.

Also for the software industry is the IT Ignite exchange program, which allowed several Filipino Independent Software Vendors (ISVs) to journey to the United Kingdom to explore business partnerships with the overseas ISV community. The program would continue with UK ISV counterparts visiting the country this year.

### Jobs and opportunities

"Around 50 percent of the IT Ignite participants went back with potential partnerships for the distribution of products," Javier said.

Local techies can also enter in the Imagine Cup, a global contest for students to create software designs under certain themes. For this year, the theme is education. The local competition will be held on May 2 and 3, and the winning team will represent the country in the Imagine Cup World finals in Seoul, Korea, in the midyear.

To spur employment and entrepreneurship, Ayala said Microsoft is in talks with stakeholders about developing an "employability portal" and has forged an alliance with the Asian Development Bank for technology programs.

Ayala also highlighted the One Follow Me Service, a mobile remittance service piloted in the country.

"With the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, we are helping Filipino workers overseas communicate with their families and save as much as 80 percent on their communication and remittance costs," he said.

The Microsoft officers also discussed updates on the Local Language Initiative, under which the company will launch Filipino-language versions of all its products sometime this year.

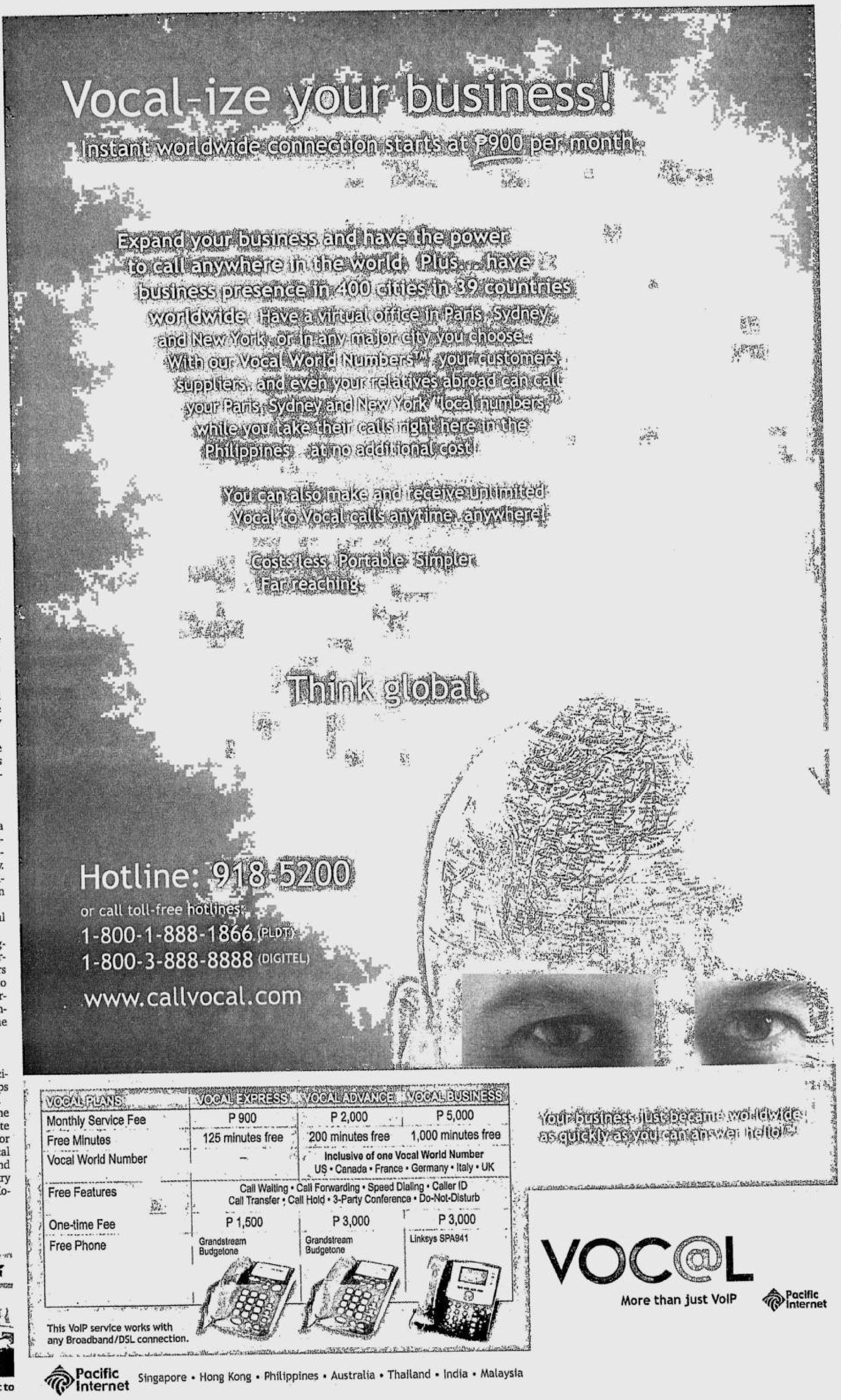
"We are optimistic about all these efforts. As our partners and users grow, so do we as a company," Ayala said.

And so will the number of PC users.

Gerald B. Borlongan

**A TEACHER at work during the Microsoft Regional Innovative Teachers conference**

**MICROSOFT'S Tulay program reaches out to OFWs**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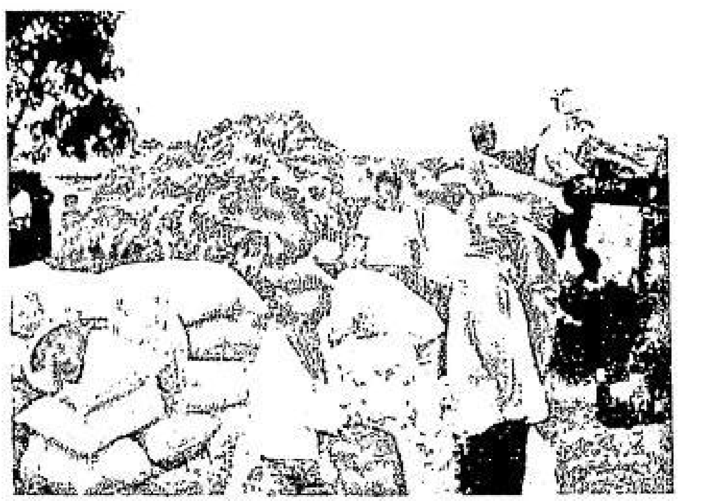
VIRGINIA BORDE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL

# She hit bottom, picked herself up, and then flew



**SOME** of the 38 people Borde employs

**By Ian Jester M. de Vera**
*Contributor, UP ISSI*

**VIRGINIA Borde, 2005 Micro Entrepreneur of the Year from the Citigroup Foundation**

SAGAY CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL—Virginia Borde used to till soil for a living, just like most poor Negrenses.

Many farm workers like her believed that life will always be hard in Negros, which is beset by unemployment due to the seasonality of sugar growing.

Sugar workers are especially hard-pressed to earn income during off-milling season.

But unlike most of her province mates, Bebing was determined to make a difference—a difference she found in microenterprise and microfinance.

## Abused and abandoned

After finishing a two-year secretarial course in college, Bebing Borde went to Manila to look for a job. She found it as a sander at a woodcraft firm.

Her marriage in 1980 to a fellow worker, who became an overseas contract worker, turned out to be a nightmare.

Whenever he came home from his foreign assignment, he battered and verbally abused Bebing. He accused her of mishandling the money he earned.

Eventually, he abandoned Bebing and their children. Bebing was then heavy with their fourth child.

## Encounter with microfinance

Without any means to redeem the house she and her husband had mortgaged to finance his trip abroad, she took all her children back to her father's house in Sagay City, Negros Occidental.

To make ends meet, Bebing laminated pictures, certificates and diplomas, but poor sales plagued the business. She then turned to buying and selling fish.

One day, a friend told her about Project Dungganon (PD), a public service undertaking of Negros Women for Tomorrow Foundation Inc. (NWTF) that granted easy-payment loans to poor women.

Founded in 1984, NWTF is a nongovernmental organization that helps poor Negrense women achieve self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

Project Dungganon (which means honorable in Ilonggo) replicates Bangladesh's famous Grameen Bank credit methodology.

Bebing lost no time applying for a loan, but she was turned down since one of the requirements was access to a PD center and her barangay had none.

This led her to embark on a house-to-house campaign, encouraging her neighbors to group themselves and avail themselves of the loans. She eventually facilitated the formation of a PD Center with initially 45 members.

She received her first loan of P5,000 in March 2000, using part of the proceeds to put up a variety store beside her house and the

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# Zamboanga sardine industry faces crisis

## Assessment recommends measures to address issues hounding the ₱3-B sector

ZAMBOANGA CITY—IF A SAMPLE of people was asked to identify one local product that cuts across all socio-cultural groups in the Philippines, canned sardines would most likely be on the top of everyone's list.

Practically all Filipinos—from the health-conscious, laptop wielding yuppies in Makati, to the robust middle-class segment of Cebu, to the low-income families in Surigao—love sardines because of their rich flavor, affordable cost and nutritional value.

Perhaps unknown however, to most consumers, is that the canned sardines, which find their way to the shelves of the neighborhood sari-sari stores or favorite supermarkets, are most likely produced in Zamboanga City.

Through the years, this city has been the country's leading producer of canned sardines, and is home to eight of the nation's canning factories, which employ around 10,000 workers.

Zamboanga's sardine industry generates over P3 billion in revenues annually for the local economy.

Similar to the thriving tuna industry in General Santos City, Zamboanga's sardine industry has become a major pillar of the city's economy. Thus, developments affecting its operations create a significant impact on the area's fiscal health and consequently, on the economic life of its residents.

### Crisis begins

Though it has enjoyed robust growth over the years, Zamboanga's sardine industry is facing a potential crisis, according to an assessment conducted by USAID's Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program at the request of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (MEDCo). MEDCo, in turn, requested the study to clarify the reasons underlying a five-month shut down of the industry by local canners in 2005; an action that severely affected the livelihoods of residents who where directly or indirectly involved in the industry's operations, including fisherfolk , cannery workers and providers of various ancillary services.

The situation, the GEM assessment explained, was due to the escalating operating costs of producers, even as fish prices remained relatively constant. Fuel prices jumped from P17 per liter in 2004 to P34 per liter in 2005, while daily wages rose form P165 to P196 when fish handlers were reclassified as nonagricultural workers. Canning operators could not significantly increase the buying price of fish because of the increasing cost of imported tin cans and consumer resistance to retail price increases. Wage and fuel increases severely eroded the profits of fisherfolk since about 80 percent of their catch is sold to local canneries. From the period 2004 to 2005, the price of fish sold to the canneries remained unchanged at P11 to P12 per kilo.

At least two canneries experienced a slump in sales towards the end of 2005, when the prices of a 150-g can reached P9.75. According to the University Asia and the Pacific, lower-income families began to replace sardines with the lower-priced noodles as their staple food. This shift in buying habits may have negative ramifications for family health since canned sardines are the most affordable source of protein available to most families.

### Over-fishing in Sulu Sea

But even more alarming, the GEM assessment revealed, was that the local sardine fleet might be fishing beyond sustainability levels. The Sulu Sea is the primary fishing ground of fleets coming from Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga City, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi.

Based on a National Stock Assessment Program conducted by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) for the period 1999 to 2005 exploitation rates for the Indian sardine—the main species used for making canned sardines—were calculated at 0.60 to 0.70, which meant that over 60 percent of the actual biomass of the fish was already being caught. An exploitation rate beyond 50 percent endangers the sustainability of the fish stocks.

The industry's fishing fleet consists of 61 commercial purse seines and ringnet vessels and 36 large municipal bancas (outrigger boats) using the ringnet and bagnet systems. Each of these commercial vessels is supported by two carriers and two lightboats.

Figures provided by the Southern Philippines Deep Sea Fishing Association (Sophil) for the period 2002 to 2005 showed that the group's 16 purse seine vessels recorded average catches of 10.6 to 12 metric tons per fishing set. Yearly sardine catches of these vessels averaged 215,000 metric tons, which comprised 70 percent of the fleet's total catch for all species. The 36 commercial bancas caught an average of one metric ton of fish daily. Based on 200 fishing nights per year, the banca fleet produced 7,200 metric tons yearly. Finally, the municipal sardine fleet's 200 large bancas caught an average of 0.5 metric ton per day. The fleet had a combined annual catch of 20,000 metric tons.

### Addressing industry concerns

To address these issues, the GEM Program, in partnership with MEDCo and BFAR, conducted a sardine industry workshop attended by 42 key representatives from the sardine industry and government agencies. The workshop provided an opportunity to validate GEM's assessment and to formulate recommendations to address crucial concerns affecting the operations of the industry's various sectors.

Among the major proposals made during the meeting was the creation of a "Sardine Management Plan" which will contain an integrated set of regulations based on the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) and total allowable catch (TAC) to be set by BFAR. The proposed management plan, which is being prepared with assistance from GEM, would also include limitations on fishing effort, seasonal closure during peak spawning periods, minimum size limits and area closures.

In the area of market and product development, it was suggested that members of the processing sector dedicate a portion of their production to develop higher-priced products for the high-end export market, allowing processors to achieve higher profits and enabling them to pay higher prices for the fish supplied by the local fishing fleet.

Another important recommendation made during the workshop was for vessel owners to increase the quality of their fish catch to meet strict export standards. Although reducing operating costs is a primary concern of boat owners, they should also adopt an integrated system of fish handling that will improve fish quality from the "fishnet to the plant."

Workshop participants likewise pushed for a comprehensive industry roadmap that includes a market-based policy-agenda, a regulatory framework and a market development program that will ensure the Zamboanga sardine industry's sustainability in the coming years.

In response, MEDCo is working with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Trade and Industry to identify potential export markets for Zamboanga's sardine products.

Sophil is encouraging its members in the fishing sector to improve their fish handling methods to further enhance product quality, while sardine processors are studying the possibility of consolidating their cargoes to achieve economies of scale.

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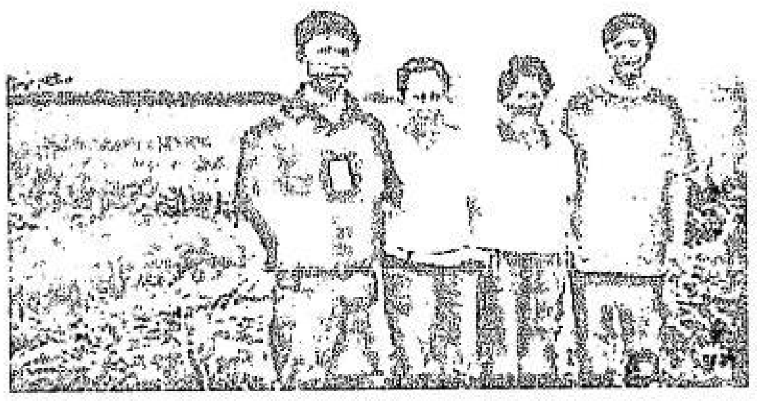

DESPITE her success, Borde continues to live a simple life with her children.

# She hit bottom, picked herself up, and then flew

From page B3-2

rest to augment her fish-vending business.

### Shifting business

She was coasting along until inspiration hit her.

She noticed that a major problem among small rice farmers was the lack of agricultural machinery, especially for land preparation and harvesting.

This shortage of farm facilities inspired Bebing to venture into a new line of business. Upon the release of her third cycle loan of P10,000, she bought on installment a 10-horsepower hand tractor costing P49,000, payable in a year.

She rented out the equipment to local farmers at P2,200 a hectare.

She also offered for a fee plowing, harrowing and land leveling services, using her own hand tractor.

She collected the rent during harvest time.

The first time she rented out her tractor, the harvest was bountiful. She completed payment of the equipment in just three months.

Her unprecedented financial success enabled Bebing to eventually acquire seven power tillers, two rice threshers and one motorcycle. She also purchased a half-hectare parcel of land where she grows sugarcane.

With the seven tractors, she is able to work on an average of 45 ha of land every rice cropping and makes about P500 per hectare in net income.

She earns most from her rice threshing business since she gets 10 percent of the total rice produced per hectare.

At present, Bebing employs 38 people, 30 of whom work on the threshers while eight operate the power tillers.

### Reap what you sow

In recognition of what Bebing has done for herself, her family, and her community, Bebing received the national award as 2005 Micro Entrepreneur of the Year from the Citigroup Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Citibank Corporation.

Despite the financial boon that has come her way, Bebing continues to lead a simple, humble life.

"Business should come first before pleasure," she asserts.

She conducts her business wearing a worn T-shirt and prefers to stay in a humble house with her children.

She attributes her success to her strong faith in God, business acumen and determination to succeed.

Hardened by the bitter past, she has developed the strength to never give up.

*Read more pluck and luck stories in "Dreamers, Doers, Risk-takers Part 3: The Micros that Roared" published by the UP Institute for Small-Scale Industries and the Small Enterprises Research. and Development Foundation. For inquiries, call or e-mail the. Author at 928-7076 to 79 and imdevera@up.edu.ph.*

# PNB opens Paris branch

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK (PNB) will now be able to provide remittance services and eventually full banking facilities to all overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) based in France with the formal opening this month of its new branch office located at 165 Avenue Victor Hugo, in Paris, France.

Omar Byron Mier, PNB president and CEO, said the PNB Paris branch is an important milestone for the bank as it extends its growing network outside the United Kingdom and penetrating key cities in the European region. The license to operate a new full fledge branch under the PNBE or Philippine National Bank (Europe) Plc, a wholly owned subsidiary of PNB in the United Kingdom, reflects the bank's commitment of providing international banking services worldwide as well as growing the bank's remittance business in the region.

The opening of the new PNBE Paris branch also coincides with the 60th Friendship Anniversary of the Philippines and France, celebrating 60 years of bilateral agreement and cooperation between the two countries.

The Philippine National Bank, one of the country's leading universal banks, is the pioneer in the remittance industry which makes the bank a safe and stable choice for OFW remittances. PNB is also the first Philippine bank to open in France and it boasts of a strong domestic network of 324 branches, and the widest international presence in 104 locations throughout the world.

PNB also expands its reach to support global remittance operations through its partnership with 671 reputable correspondent banks in the United States, Canada, Guam, Honolulu, Netherlands, Germany, Italy, London, Spain, Austria, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Hong Kong, Singapore, Tokyo, Nagoya and many others.

PNB was cited in the 2006 Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) Stakeholders' Awards for winning the Outstanding Commercial Bank Reporter on OFW Remittances for accuracy and timeliness of reportage, affirming the integrity of PNB data, and the bank being the global Filipinos' choice for traditional remittances.

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# A new look, a new line

**By Margie Quimpo-Espino**

IT TOOK ONE YEAR TO CREATE and offices from all over the world had to be consulted. Several thousand dollars, perhaps even millions, were spent on "branding experts" and advertising agencies.

The result: a new corporate brand identity for Citigroup, which will be featured today in television ads airing on CNN, BBC and ESPN and print ads in several countries, including the Philippines.

Mark C. Jones, Citibank N.A country business manager of the global consumer group, met with BusinessMonday to talk about the group's new ad copy: "Dreams are good. Realities are better."

Connecting the two ad lines is the ubiquitous Citi red arch.

The arch was originally meant to represent the umbrella of the Travelers Group (which merged with Citibank in the '90s), but customers thought of it more as a bridge.

Its new tag line, "Let's get it done" replaces "the Citi never sleeps."

Citibank will also do away with the umbrella icon following the sale of the trademark to The St. Paul Travelers Companies Inc..

Jones explains that the umbrella symbol is more associated with insurance under the Travelers Group, rather than Citibank's financial services.

Jones is confident that with the branding change, which aims to strengthen a global brand identity under the "Citi" name, the organization in the Philippines will have more reason to deliver more of Citigroup's products to its target market and provide solutions to their financial needs.

"When a customer goes into our door, we want to be able to provide all of that. We want to make sure the customers see us providing all that," he adds.

Citibank has one million credit card holders, 100,000 bank customers and 100,000 borrowers of personal loans in the Philippines, reveals Jones.

The Citigroup is one of many huge conglomerates that invest heavily in branding and coming up with the right tag lines.

Most even have one-inch thick manuals that spell out how to use corporate logos and colors.

Citibank in the Philippines made full use of these logos and tag lines when it recently launched a campaign to inform cardholders of its other products.

Jones says a good 10 percent expressed interest in trying out the other financial products that Citibank has to offer, such as personal loans and wealth management.

"They are aware of the other products but we have not made it easy for them [to try them]," Jones admits.

He says the strategy of getting cardholders to try other products has generated billions of dollars in additional business in the United States.

Citibank employees will play a big role in getting that additional business and Jones is hopeful that the new corporate brand will encourage them to be even better at their jobs.

The new line, he says, hopes to encourage better performance from Citibank's people.

Jones says one of the challenges in the Philippines is to introduce banking to more Filipinos.

"The [number of] Filipinos eligible for a credit card is small," he says, estimating it at only four million.

The figure is based on the number of wage earners who get at least P10,000 a month.

Jones feels Citibank can still expand its cardholder base to include this mass market base, which usually relies on pawnshops and loan sharks who charge double-digit monthly interest rates.

Over the past two years, Citibank in the country has aggressively pursued this market via its CitiFinancial group, which provides personal loans.

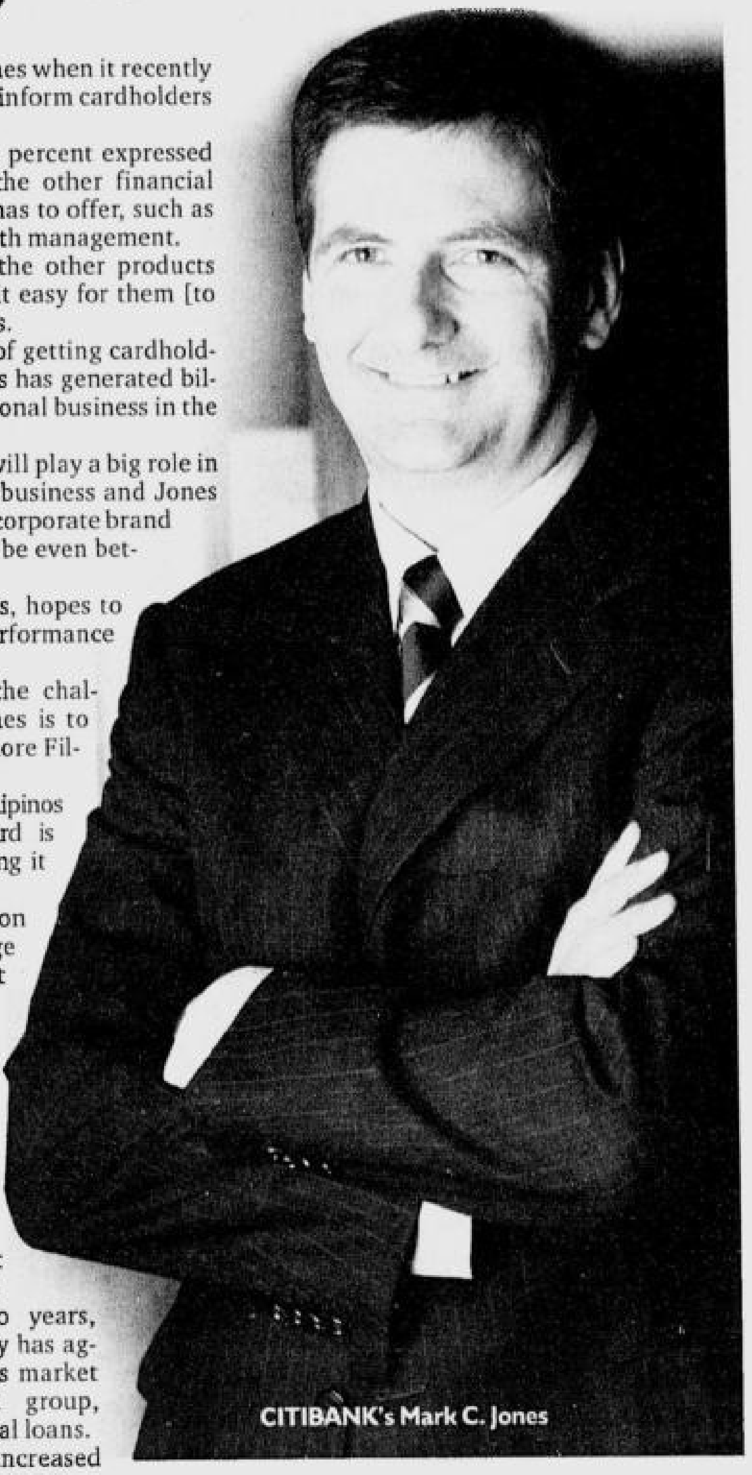
Citibank has also increased its presence through subsidiary Citibank Savings.

Deposits doubled last year and Citibank expects another doubling this year.

Jones attributes the growth partly to the improvement of the economy and the bank's increased accessibility, given its 36 branches.

Helping the business along is the fact that Citibank is a trusted name in banking.

Citibank recently won the Platinum award in branding based on a survey conducted by Reader's Digest.


CITIBANK's Mark C. Jones

aboitiz
Equity Ventures

NOTICE AND AGENDA OF THE MEETING

ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, INC.
ABOITIZ CORPORATE CENTER,
GOV MANUEL A. CUENCO AVENUE
KASAMBAGAN, CEBU CITY 6000, PHILIPPINES

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS OF **ABOITIZ EQUITY VENTURES, INC.**, WILL BE HELD ON 21 MAY 2007 AT 4:00 P.M. AT THE GRAND BALLROOM OF CEBU CITY MARRIOTT HOTEL, CEBU BUSINESS PARK, CEBU CITY.

THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. PROOF OF NOTICE OF MEETING
3. DETERMINATION OF QUORUM
4. READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF 15 MAY 2006 AND SPECIAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2007
5. PRESENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT
6. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
7. RATIFICATION OF THE ACTS, RESOLUTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CORPORATE OFFICERS AND MANAGEMENT UP TO 21 MAY 2007
8. ELECTION OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS
9. ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
10. OTHER BUSINESS
11. ADJOURNMENT

ONLY STOCKHOLDERS OF RECORD AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON APRIL 9, 2007 ARE ENTITLED TO NOTICE AND TO VOTE AT THIS MEETING. REGISTRATION WILL START AT 2:00 P.M. AND WILL END AT 4:00 P.M. KINDLY PRESENT ANY PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION, SUCH AS DRIVER'S LICENSE, PASSPORT, COMPANY I.D. OR SSS/GSIS I.D. ASIDE FROM PERSONAL IDENTIFICATION, REPRESENTATIVES OF ORPORATE STOCKHOLDERS AND OTHER ENTITIES SHOULD ALSO PRESENT A DULY SWORN SECRETARY'S CERTIFICATE OR A SIMILAR DOCUMENT SHOWING HIS OR HER AUTHORITY TO REPRESENT THE CORPORATION OR ENTITY.

SHOULD YOU BE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETING, YOU MAY WANT TO EXECUTE A PROXY IN FAVOR OF A REPRESENTATIVE. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMENDED BY-LAWS OF THE CORPORATION, PROXIES MUST BE PRESENTED TO THE SECRETARY FOR INSPECTION, VALIDATION AND RECORD AT LEAST SEVEN (7) DAYS PRIOR TO THE OPENING OF THE STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING. WE ENCLOSE A PROXY FORM FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE.

FOR THOSE UNABLE TO ATTEND THE STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING IN CEBU, A STOCKHOLDERS' BRIEFING WILL BE CONDUCTED IN MANILA ON MAY 23, 2007 AT 3:00 P.M. AT RIZAL BALLROOM A, MAKATI SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, MAKATI CITY.

FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

(SGD)
M. JASMINE S. OPORTO
CORPORATE SECRETARY

# *From Asia, microfinance spreads to Africa*

NAIROBI—SELLING VEGETABLES AT A stall in a filthy open-air market in Nairobi, Fatma Amina barely makes enough to feed her four children, let alone give them an education that would lift the family out of poverty.

The Kenyan government receives millions of dollars in aid to fight poverty, but little of it is available to small traders like Amina unless they can put up collateral.

"I hear of donors but where are they?" Amina said.

But that situation may be changing as African countries follow the lead of Asia, where tens of millions of people have obtained small loans, thanks to an explosion of microfinance operations.

Kenya's new Microfinance Act, signed into law late last year, provides a legal framework regulating lenders, known in the industry as microfinance institutions (MFIs).

"It makes business sense for the government to have a clear policy because this is the fastest growing sector of the economy," said Winnie Kathurima, a general manager at Equity Bank, which won an international award in 2005 for its role in providing loans to micro-entrepreneurs.

Microfinance has been around for decades, but has mushroomed in recent years, especially in Asia where nearly 100 million people have access to microcredit, according to the Microcredit Summit Campaign, which hopes to bring microcredit services to 175 million of the world's poorest families by the end of 2015.

## Focus on Africa

In Africa, the poorest continent, the campaign's figures show only 7 million people had access to microcredit at the end of 2005.

Germany will press rich nations at a G8 summit in June to create a microcredit fund for African entrepreneurs as a way to help the continent's poorest, International Development Minister Heidemarie Wieczorek-Zeul said in February.

"There's a long way to go," said Anna Awimbo, the Microcredit Summit Campaign's research director. "It may look daunting, but there is such a huge potential for growth and that's the region where we are most likely to see the biggest growth."

"There's a huge demand and what's really required is for governments to create a conducive environment for the establishment of MFIs—demand will not be a problem," she said.

Some governments have already made progress.

Kenya's partners in the East African Community, Tanzania and Uganda, have also brought in new laws governing the industry, which Awimbo said should allow microlenders who meet certain standards to offer savings accounts, thereby giving them access to more money to lend.

Microfinance shot into the headlines last year when Bangladeshi economist Mohammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank he founded picked up the Nobel Peace Prize for their grassroots drive to end world poverty through microlending.

Because of the higher unit costs, microcredit interest rates are higher than normal bank rates, often around 15-35 percent.

Yunus' Grameen Foundation, which promotes access to microcredit, says that is preferable to paying loan sharks or money lenders rates of 120-300 percent a year.

## Tweaking the Asian model

Operators in Africa may have to adapt the Asian model to the conditions on the continent.

"One obvious difference is the population density," said Sam Daley-Harris, director of the Microcredit Summit Campaign. "(In Asia) you did have population density, which gives economies of scale. I would say that is one of the biggest barriers in Africa."

Some operators are looking at using prepaid phone credit and Africa's rapidly expanding mobile networks to transfer money and make repayments, reducing the need for credit agents to travel from village to village collecting tiny amounts of cash.

Better communications and credit monitoring will also help.

Kenya's new law, for example, encourages lenders to pool information on borrowers' credit history, drastically reducing the risk of default, said Jean-Philippe Prosper, senior manager for Eastern Africa at the International Finance Corp. (IFC).

"Banks are presently unwilling to lend to small enterprises due primarily to lack of good information," he said.

"International experience suggests that the use of credit information allows banks to reduce loan processing time and cost by 25 percent or more and lower default rates by 40-80 percent."

Such cost-saving measures could be crucial to future growth. *Reuters*

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JUNYEE with the mock-up of his winning entry, "Open Doors"

# Pinoy Holocaust sculpture to rise in Israel

"I cannot imagine ... a more fitting symbol for this occasion than ... open doors, literally, dramatically and so contemporarily designed as open doors"–Junyee

**By Paul Blanco Zafaralla**
*Contributor*

DIPLOMATIC relations—friendly, strong, uninterrupted and warm—have been a continuing state policy between the Philippines and Israel for almost half a century now. Such relations must have found their seminal period when Carlos P. Romulo, then Philippine ambassador to the United Nations, cast the crucial vote in favor of an independent Israel. Date: May 14, 1942. It was a Friday.

Human relationship actually presaged the diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Israel. Historical records show that "when everyone else in the world refused to take in Jews escaping from Nazi tyranny in Europe, the Philippines gladly opened its doors and welcomed them with open arms."

Furthermore, President Manuel L. Quezon "built a housing project for Jewish refugees in Marikina in 1939 and allotted a farm and settlement area in Mindanao for 35,000 Jewish refugees before World War II."

The diaspora had since taken an inverse relationship, except that the Filipinos in Israel are not refugees.

## Public-sculpture contest

To mark the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the Department of Foreign Affairs-Office of Middle East and African Affairs, and the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, with the cooperation of the Art Association of the Philippines-Society of Philippine Sculptors, launched a public-sculpture competition, with the grand prize-winning entry to be installed at the Holocaust Memorial Park in the Municipality of Rishon Lezion, Israel.

There was no "specific theme"; however, the sculptural piece (all entries must be studies, or mock-ups, with specifications like materials to be

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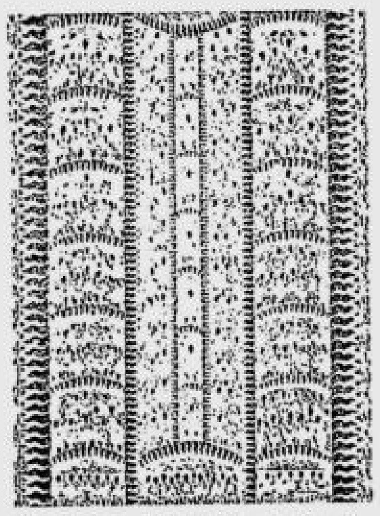
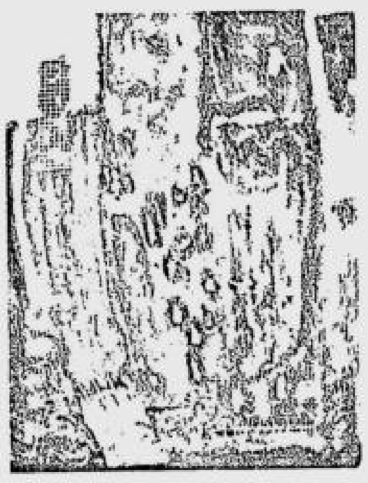


"LIBER Que Est Te Martyribus," by Dexter Sy



"PREACHER," by Demosthenes Campos

# Form and content in painting

By Constantino C. Tejero

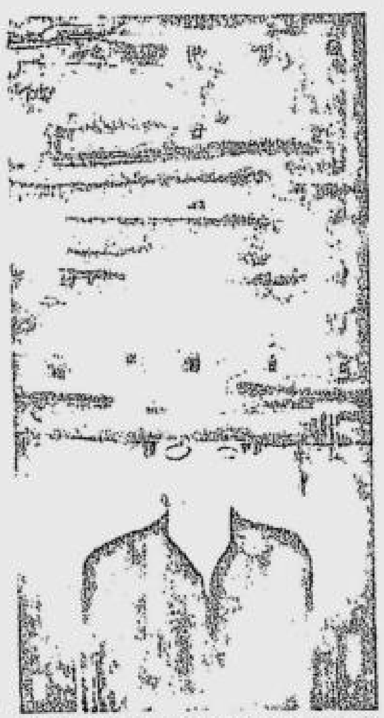
THE THREE MODES OF representation in painting were presented by three young artists in a recent joint exhibit, "Kalawang at Lipunan," 25 pieces in oil and mixed media on canvas and paper, in Crucible Gallery at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Eugenio Cubillo II, Demosthenes Campos and Dexter Sy might have originally aspired for content in gathering their artworks in one show, but what strikes the viewer more is the display of form that inadvertently holds these disparate pieces together.

Figuration is represented by Cubillo's seven expressionistic pieces in earth tonality of brown, gray, umber. Ostensibly depicting the working class, the artist reveals these are chiefly portraits of people looking for jobs or running in the rat race.

Here, both the employed and the unemployed are depicted like zombies. One sees it in the blank stare of those who feel unproductive in "Hunter" 1-2, and the trancelike expression of those who feel trapped in assembly-line jobs in "Mindset" and "Tunggalian ng Mga Kukote."

The mind-numbing, soul-destroying nature of both job-hunting and routine work devolves into anonymity in the collage of ID shots of "Still Alive." And humanity has totally vanished in "Hard to Find" and been replaced by newspaper clippings of classified ads.

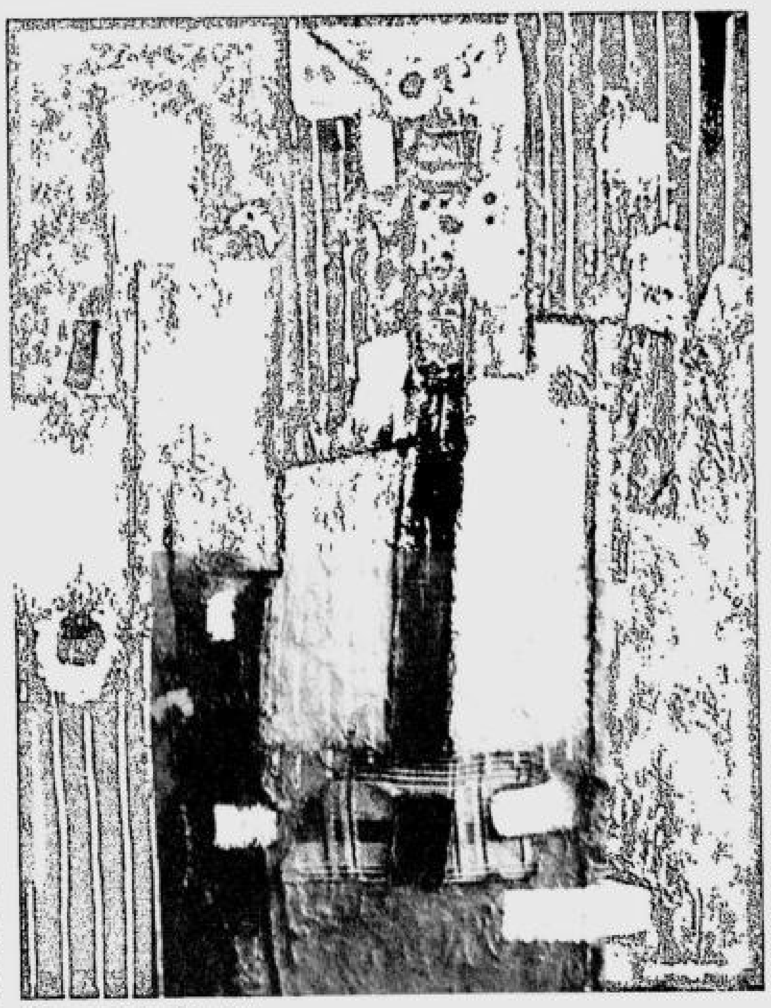


"MINDSET," by Eugenio Cubillo II

## Guided perception

This last, rendered in emulsion transfer on canvas then dripped with oil, is the bridge to abstraction as represented by the paintings of Campos.

In their strong chromatics, bold brushstrokes and rough textural elements, Campos' 11 pieces are reminiscent of the early works of Joseph Lofranco and Roberto Robles. Here, the surface of the painting is composed by layering the canvas with stitched-on cloth swatches or incorporating found objects, then covering it with a thick application of paint, in red, brown, yellow, orange and green.



"Dynasty" by Campos

Most of the form consists of vertical lines and rectangles, as in "Smoke," "Dynasty," "Preacher," "Indolent," "Hibla," "Singaw." Circular shapes appear in some pieces, such as "Maniac" and "Mantsa" 1-4.

As is often with abstraction, the viewer's perception is guided by the works' titles, without which one is lost. That rusty object wrapped in handmade paper and incorporated in the painting may be "the self covering and uncovering itself in response to outside forces brought upon it by a changing society," but first and foremost one sees vivid hues and expressive lines.

Which brings us to the last mode of representation—patterns—here represented by the work of Sy.

## Technical skill

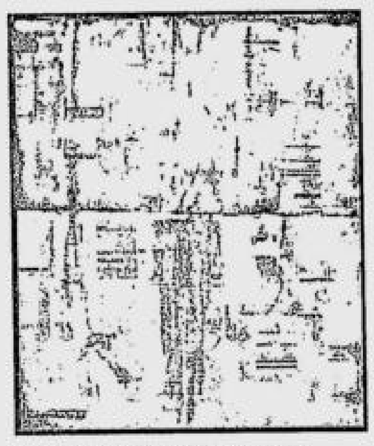
The pattern-making is quite intricate and Sy has chosen for his seven pieces Latin titles associated with the Catholic faith: "Anno Domini," "Anno Mundi," "Gloria in Excelsis," "Liturgia Sacra Misa," "De Profundis."

Rendered in brown and slate-green with tinges of red and orange, they look like panels of textile with ethnic design of pure symmetrical patterns. On closer inspection one finds these are not tapestries but pen-and-ink drawings with a metallic sheen. And the patterns are really tiny images of occult objects, animal forms, human figures, macabre hybrids, fairies, demons, tridents, flames, skulls, disembodied hands, eyes, wings, brain, the mystic triangle.

These are meant to be a Boschean depiction of tortured souls, the distortion of figures mirroring "the pathos of human existence in which people are relentlessly shaped by a repressive society." Still, one can only remotely associate what one sees (whether as patterns or figures) with those solemn-sounding titles.

But it can never be denied that the beauty of technique and execution is astonishing. It is trompe l'oeil of the first order.

Here then are three artists who have much to say and the technical skill to flesh out their visions. They may not have quite articulated their indictment of the social order in this show, but by saturating the gallery with the color of rust they have certainly impressed the viewer with the feel of corrosion.



"HARD to Find," by Cubillo

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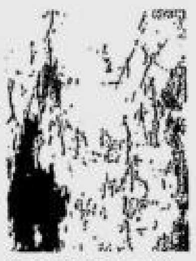
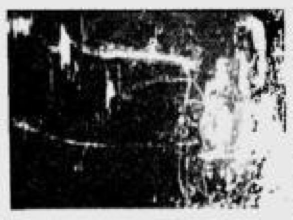
# VISUAL ARTS

## Austria, Lindslee, RM de Leon at West



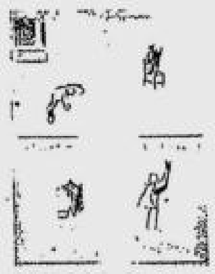
"TRUE Color," by Lindslee

Abstract artists Julio Austria and Lindslee exhibit their large-scale mixed-media works in "Black and White Conversation" at West Gallery (Mary Santos Artcade, 48 West Ave., QC) on May 15-June 15. It is Austria's first time to do something in black and white. The urban environment is the subject of his installations, some of which are oil and acrylic on aluminum. Lindslee explores the extent of the purity of black and white while letting some colors slip through the cracks. Both artists are Painting graduates of UST. Call 41192221 or 4110336.



"BLACK and White Thoughts," by Julio Austria

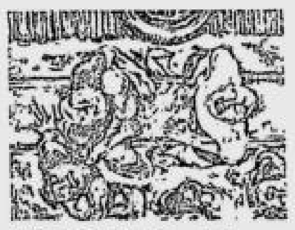
Meanwhile, R.M. de Leon shares how visual representation takes shape in "Subject Matters" at West Gallery (SM Megamall) on May 10-22. He had asked his art students at UP to copy a drawing and stopped them before they were finished. The results are minimal doodles which De Leon then recreated and enlarged to give viewers an idea on how attitudes come into play in composition. Call 6341284.



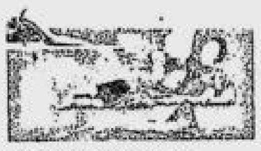
BY RM de Leon

## Coquilla at Liongoren

Daniel Coquilla's "Tulay Po Kayo" is on exhibit in Liongoren Gallery (111 New York St., Cubao) until May 18. His 12th one-man show features oil-on-canvas depictions of street scenes set along an actual bridge in Cubao. It is the same locale that inspired his award-winning work "K-H" which is now in the collection of the Singapore Art Museum.



"DAMA," by Daniel Coquilla

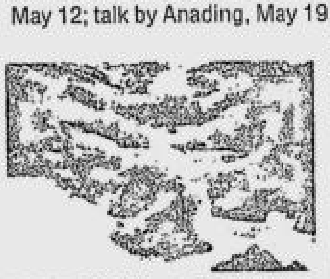


BY STEVE Tirona

## Silverlens acquistion show

Silverlens Foundation will open four exhibits tomorrow by artists who won the SLF Acquisition grants—Poklong Anading's "Anonymity," Steve Tirona's "Imelda Collection," José Enrique Soriano's "Episodes: Still Photos of the Unstill Mind," and Conrado Velasco's "String Theory"—in Silverlens Gallery (2320 Pasong Tamo Extension, Yupangco Bldg., Makati City). The show will run until June 2. The following lectures have been set: overview of the Silverlens grant program, May 12; talk by Anading, May 19; another talk by Soriano, May 26. Call 8160044.

BY JOSÉ Enrique Soriano



"BROOKS," by Cris Cruz

## Art raffle

The Art Discovery and Learning Foundation Inc. will be raffling off paintings by over 50 Philippine artists on May 12, 2 p.m. in the MAB Hall, Philippine Heart Center, East Ave., QC. Proceeds will fund scholarship grants for out-of-school youngsters so they can pursue Fine Arts studies. To be raffled off are works by Malang, Olazo, Criz Cruz, Angel Cacnio, Lydia Velasco. A ticket costs P3,000 and every ticket holder is guaranteed to win at least one painting costs P5,000-P40,000. Call Fernando Sena at 3762196 or 0918 9519989.

## Lolarga at Nine

Simultaneous solo shows are being held at the SM Megamall Artwalk until May 20 under the auspices of the artists' guild, Sanayan Lapat Kamay Foundation, Inc. (Salakai). On exhibit are the works of Jerry Araos, Salakai founder (SM Art Center); Julian Araos (Crucible Gallery); Ral Arrogante (Renaissance Art Gallery); Jenny Cortes (Art Asia); Tommy Hafalla (Heritage Art Center); Babeth Lolarga (Gallery Nine); Aguilardo Pagkatipunan (Big & Small Art Co.); and Francisco Viri (Gallery Genesis). Former Senate president Jovito Salonga formally opened the exhibits. Lolarga's exhibit was opened by Gilda Cordero Fernando, Edna Manlapaz and Lorna Kalaw Tirol.

## MM Yu at Finale

On view in Finale Art Gallery (4/F SM Megamall) until May 9 is MM Yu's "Thoughts, Collected and Recollected." The exhibit features more than 20 spiral-bound black notebooks containing the artist's photographs loosely arranged according to theme, subject, sentiment and impulse of thought. In love with common folks and the discarded objects of the everyday, the artist captures them without irony and interpretation, allowing their ghastly beauty to emerge and permeate her works with an urgent rawness and honesty so rare in the heavily edited, digitalized world of photography. Also acting as an installation art, the exhibit offers the viewer a walking tour through the many lives the artist has lived as an observer, traveler, archivist: a dazzling surfeit of familiar but oft-ignored images that compose, cohere and inevitably create the contemporary world. Call 634-2411 or visit www.finaleartfile.com.

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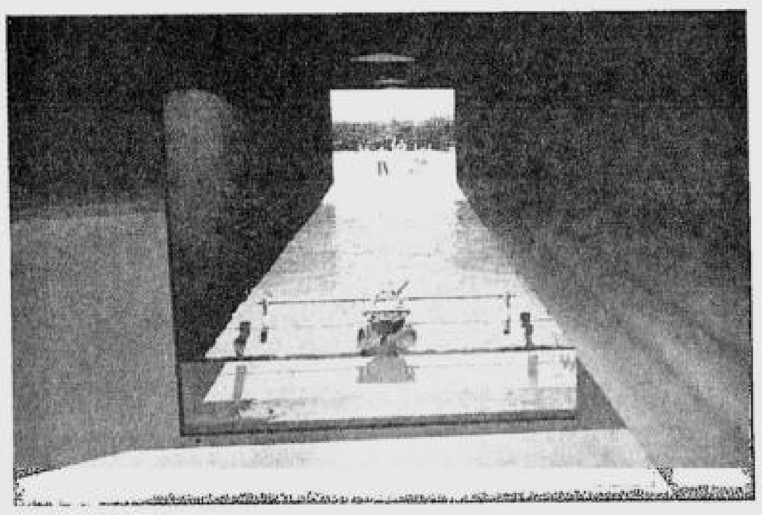

"BANCA"

# *Kobe Biennale 2007 selects Palencia*

FILIPINO MULTIMEDIA artist Joaquin Palencia is one of 45 artists worldwide chosen from over 360 entries for the 1st Kobe Biennale to be held in Kobe, Japan, Oct. 6-Nov. 25.

Palencia's entry, a video installation titled "Banca," explores the intercultural migration of goods and labor. Set inside a 40-ft container van, the installation consists of looped footage of a boat in transit, the surface of the sea, as well as an island, all projected onto the floor of the container van.

Palencia is fresh from winning in the Sea Art Festival of the 2006 Busan Biennale as well as participating in the 10th Cairo International Biennale 2006 in December.

He is the only Philippine participant in the Kobe Biennale.

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# Pinoy Holocaust sculpture to rise in Israel

From page C1

used, exact measurement of the actual monument, etc.), must reflect "the Philippine heroic deeds during the Holocaust in saving Jewish refugees."

There were three criteria for judging: originality; relevance to the theme (although there was no "specific theme" as the rules specified); and visual impact. (Intellectual depth, and how this was actualized, should have been included).

While the public monument "will become the property of the government of Israel," the artist still "has the absolute ownership of the copyright and intellectual property rights" of the artwork. The rules did not resolve the issue of the extent of property ownership (on the part of the government of Israel), and property rights, including copyright and intellectual rights (on the part of the artist).

## Short list

Established and emerging artists participated. From the many entries, the board of judges (who must remain anonymous) chose 12 entries, from which they short-listed five, all of them by great artists.

The five were invited to attend the announcement of winners at the NCCA on April 12. The Grand Prize winner: Luis Enano Yee Jr., known in national and international art circles as Junyee.

## Artist's interpretation

Junyee interprets his winning entry thus:

"'Open Doors' is a monument of ... modern conceptual doors that represent the Philippines which gladly opened its doors and welcomed the Jewish refugees with open arms during the Nazi tyranny in Europe.

"The monument consists of three open doors, its size increasing in height, forming a triangle. The triangle pattern is actually the triangle of the Philippine flag. The triangle of the Philippine flag fits half of the two triangles of the Star of David of the flag of Israel. In a sense, our flag and the flag of Israel are joined together to symbolize the closeness and brotherhood of the two nations that will celebrate their 50th year of diplomatic relations in November this year.

JUNYEE receives his prize from NCCA chair Ambeth Ocampo and Ambassador Oscar Valenzuela.

"The doors also symbolize Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The doors open inward and 'meet' in the middle of the triangle, where a light feature that represents the sun in our flag will be switched on every night.

"The three stars of our flag will rise one foot from the floor. The stylized and abstract ... doors that rise beyond the door frames represent the sun rays of our flag and are inspired by the Muslim vinta in Zamboanga.

"In front of each door, two footsteps will be imprinted. One, the left foot imprinted in front of the door, and the second, the right foot imprinted inside the door. These footsteps will be imprinted by an actual person while the floor cement is still wet. Two Israelis who were actually part of the thousands of Jews who sought refuge in our country, probably one man and one woman, will imprint their bare feet on the floor.

"I suggest, Mr. Max Weixler, a Manilaner, as the Jew refugees called themselves, who now lives in Israel and still fluent in Filipino will represent the male. The third, a younger Jew representing the new generation, will be selected by the Israeli government to represent the unbroken friendship and our continuous welcome to the Israelis up to the present.

"I also suggest that the judges should view my model on eye level instead of just looking above it. While on eye level the model should be turned around slowly while the judge viewing it should be stationary. This way, the judge can perceive the monument the way it is perceived by one standing before the actual monument and walking around it.

"As a whole, the monument will have a feeling of soaring up in triumph because of the rising design of the open doors. I cannot imagine ... a more fitting symbol for this occasion than ... open doors, literally, dramatically and so contemporarily designed as open doors."

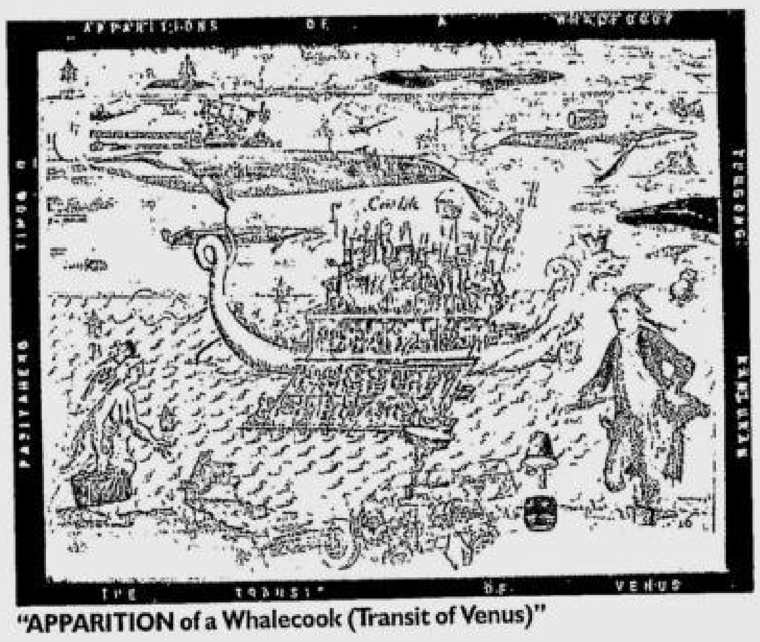
## Los Baños

Junyee, the first artist-in-residence in UP Los Baños (1985), will work on his monument in Los Baños. The public monument (all in metal sheet except for the perpetual light), will rise to a height of seven meters.

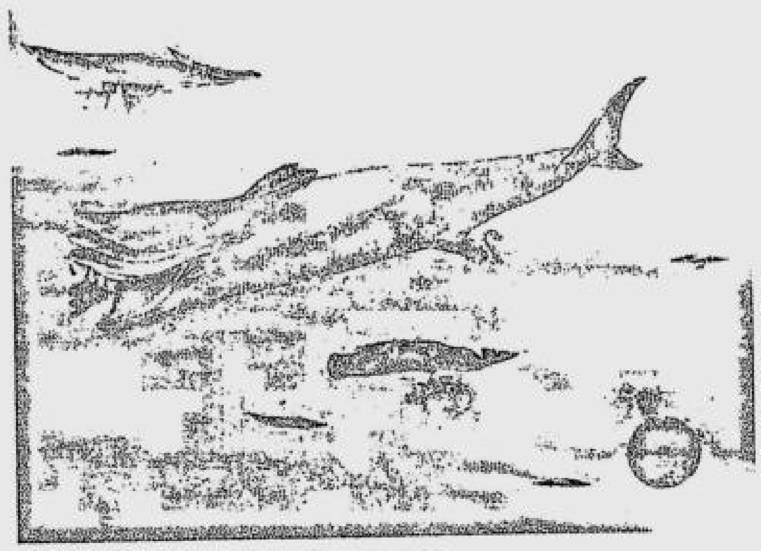
Once finished by panels (nine pieces in all), the monument will be transported to Israel, where Junyee will supervise the installation on a total lot area of 12 sq m.

"Open Doors" will complement two other monumental masterpieces: "Holocaust Memorial" and "Menora Statue."

# 'Grand Piano Project' at CCP, Duemila



"APPARITION of a Whalecook (Transit of Venus)"



"PINOI Ccho's Revenge III (The Flight)"

WESTERN AUSTRALIA-BASED FILIPINO artist Alwin Reamillo presents a two-part commemorative installation project, "Mang Emo + Mag-himo Grand Piano Project," as part of his four-month Asialink Visual Arts Residency at the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Galleria Duemila.

The project presents the documented development and restorative construction of an art case upright and parlour grand piano in collaboration with Filipino piano-makers Jaime Pastorfide, Sabas Rabino Jr. and Tranquilino Tosio Jr., from the now-defunct Javincello & Company, makers of Wittemberg pianos.

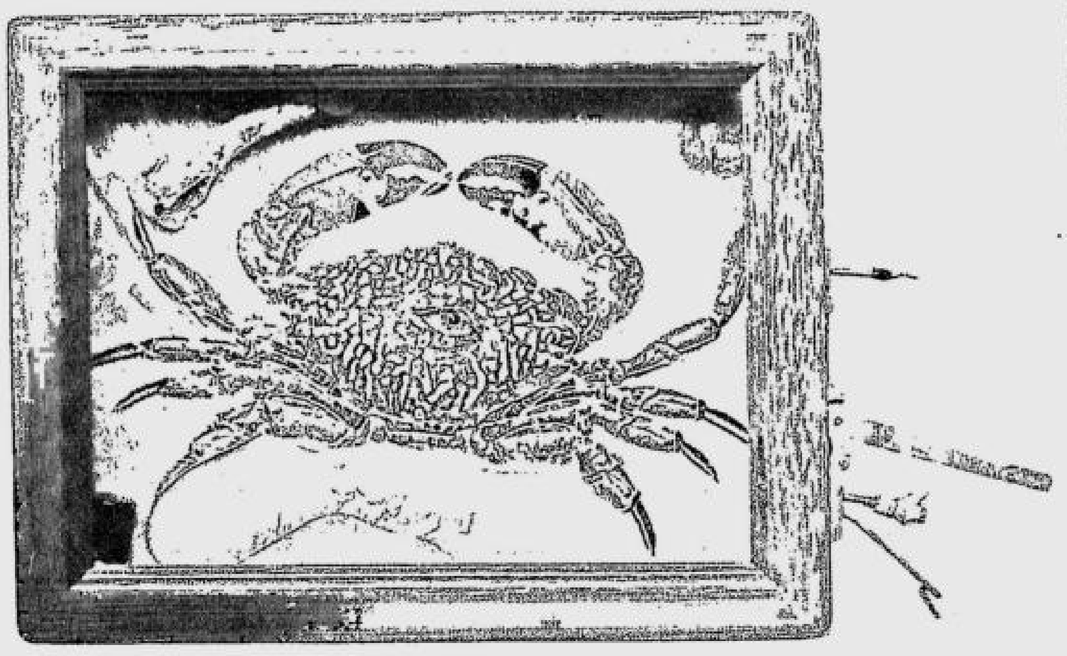
The instruments, made of found and recycled structural piano parts, will be presented as central components for a shrine/piano workshop installation to commemorate the memory of the artist's father, Decimo Reamillo, or *Mang* Emo, a piano-maker and inventor who co-founded the family company in 1961.

Included in the exhibitions are two vintage Wittemberg pianos; a 1989 parlour grand; and a prototype of small upright piano called the Maya.

The final assembly of a new playing mechanism for the grand piano will be completed at Gallery Duemila where the gallery space will be transformed into a temporal piano-assembly workshop.

As local piano-making has ceased to exist in the country, the project is a performative action to revive and breathe new life to this art and craft.

*Mag-himo* is a Waray word which means "to make, to create, to craft."



"D'URVILLE Cruise Tacean"

Reamillo is cross-media artist who works in mixed-media painting, sculpture, sound, installation and performance. His various hybrid projects often examine and incorporate relational/social processes, developed with individuals and communities as embodied in the Filipino cultural practice of *bayanihan*.

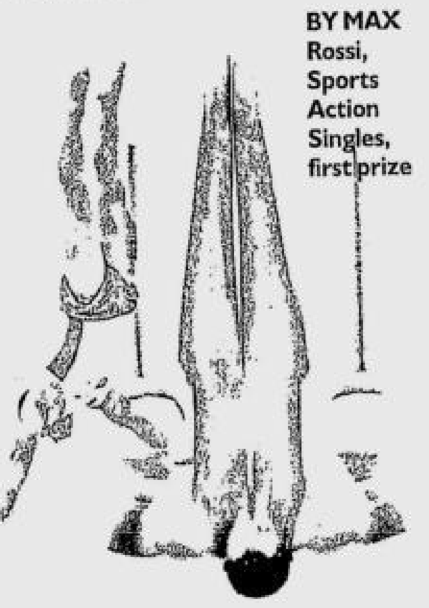
An active proponent of collaborative art-making, he formed Reamillo & Juliet with West Australian artist Juliet Lea in 1993. Their collaborations have been included in international touring exhibitions.

Reamillo received the 1994 Thirteen Artists Award of the Cultural Center of the Philippines and the Freeman Foundation for Asian Artists Fellowship at the Vermont Studio Center, United States (1996).

The "Mang Emo + Mag-himo Grand Piano Project" is now running at both the CCP and Duemila. It will tour the Fremantle Arts Center in Western Australia in December.

Call Galleria Duemila at 8339815 and 8319990; or CCP at 8321125 local 1504-1506. E-mail duemila@mydestiny.net or visit www.galleriaduemila.com.

# Dramatic images in World Press Photo exhibit



BY MAX Rossi, Sports Action Singles, first prize

AWARD-WINNING WORKS OF PHOTOjournalism are exhibited at the 2007 World Press Photo Exhibition at The Podium until May 8.

Organized by the Konrad Adenauer Asian Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University and the Royal Netherlands Embassy in cooperation with The Podium, the exhibition is a selection of about 200 winning photos in the annual World Press Photo Competition. The show is in connection with the World Press Freedom and Photojournalism celebration.

The exhibit showcases the World Press Photo of the Year 2006 by Spencer Platt of the United States, which shows young Lebanese driving through a devastated Beirut neighborhood.

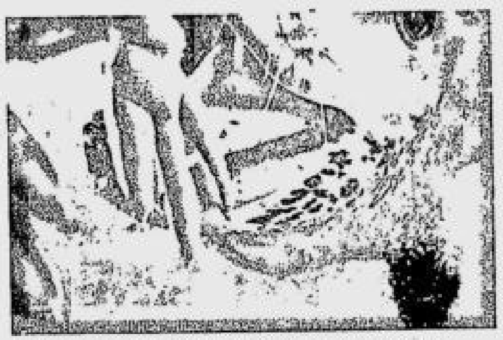
The exhibit has many other immediate and powerful images such as Akimunde Akinleye's moving photo of a man at the scene of a petrol pipeline explosion in his native Nigeria (first prize, Spot News Singles). There is also Oded Baliffy's photograph of a soldier struggling with Israeli security officers at the West Bank (first prize, People in the News Singles; also winner of this year's Pulitzer Prize).

Sports enthusiasts will enjoy viewing photographs showing graceful participants in the World Championship Gymnastics in Denmark (by Max Rossi, Italy, first prize, Sports Action Singles); and French captain Zidane's exit from the World Cup finals in Berlin (Peter Schols, the Netherlands, first Prize, Sports Action).

Nature-lovers can view breathtaking photos, such as "Serval Cat in the Zakouma National Park in Chad" (Michael Nichols, US, first prize, Nature Singles); and "Leopard Seal Hunting in the Antarctica" (Paul Nicklen, Canada, first prize, Nature Stories).

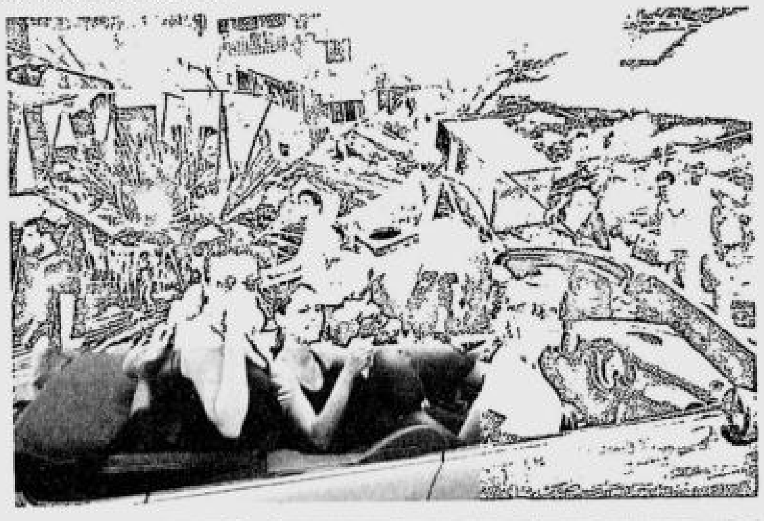
The World Press Photo Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization in the Netherlands, which was founded in 1955 to internationally foster the work of professional press photographers.

The exhibit will also be mounted at the SM Mall of Asia on May 10-16; and at The Block at SM City North Edsa on May 17-24.



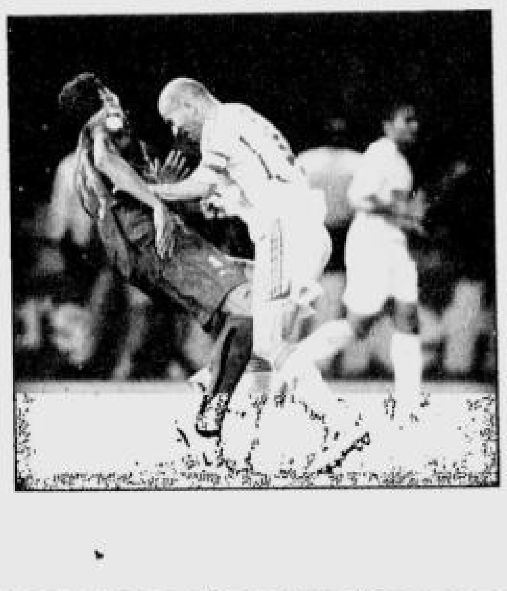
PAUL Nicken, Nature Stories, first prize

MICHAEL Nichols, Nature Singles, first prize



WORLD Press Photo of the Year 2006, by Spencer Platt

AKINTUNDE Akinleye, Spot News Singles, first prize



PETER Schols, Sports Action Stories, first prize

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Josie T. Gotohio, LUTCF

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9-Time MDRT
IQA Achiever '07

Lorna C. Lao, LUTCF
5-Time MDRT
IQA Achiever '07

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9-Time MDRT
Life Member
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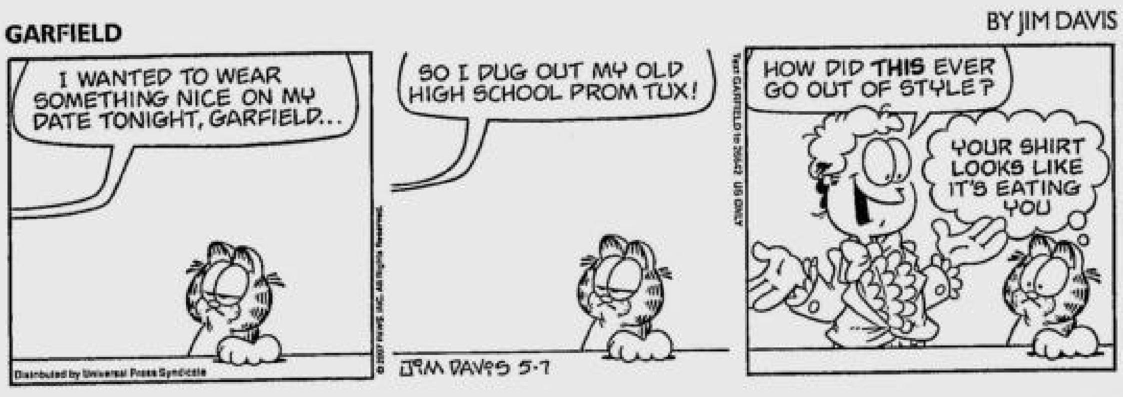
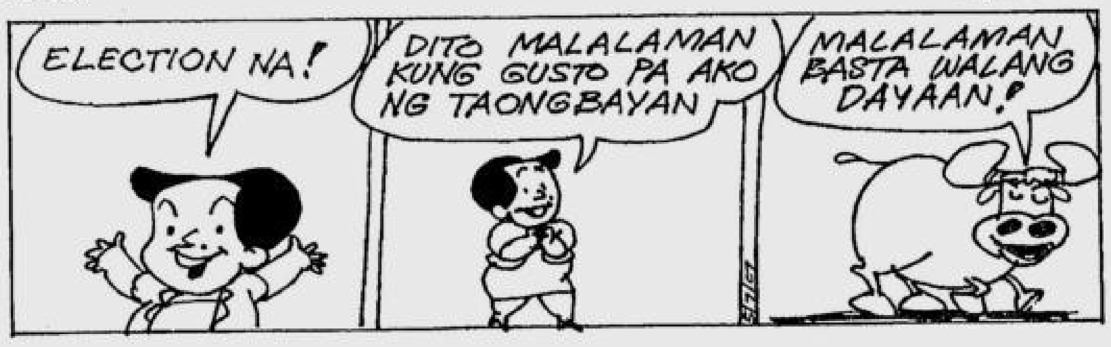
### GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


I WANTED TO WEAR SOMETHING NICE ON MY DATE TONIGHT, GARFIELD...
SO I DUG OUT MY OLD HIGH SCHOOL PROM TUX!
HOW DID THIS EVER GO OUT OF STYLE?
YOUR SHIRT LOOKS LIKE IT'S EATING YOU
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
JIM DAVIS 5-7

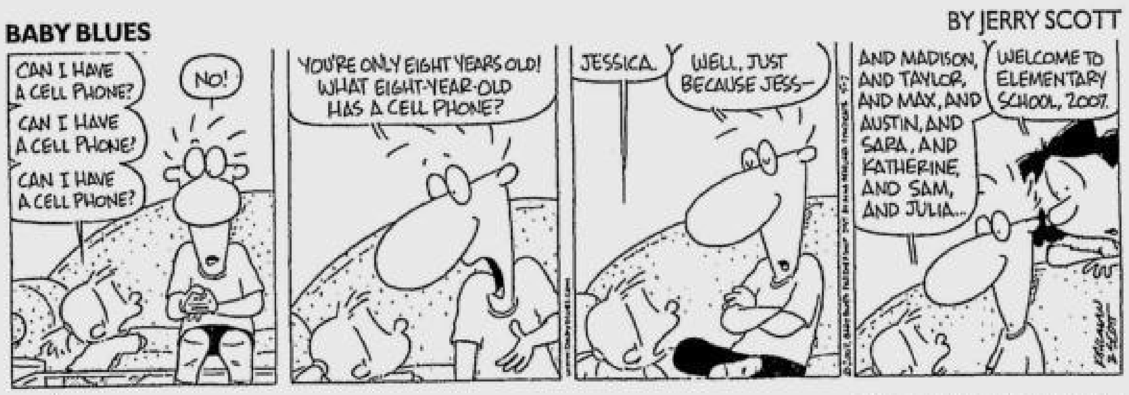
### A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ELECTION NA!
DITO MALALAMAN KUNG GUSTO PA AKO NG TAONGBAYAN
MALALAMAN BASTA WALANG DAYAAN!

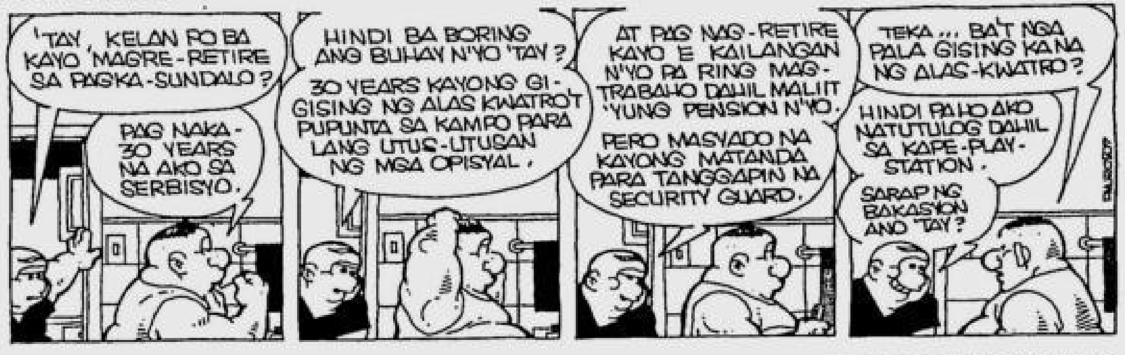
### BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


CAN I HAVE A CELL PHONE?
CAN I HAVE A CELL PHONE!
CAN I HAVE A CELL PHONE?
NO!
YOU'RE ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD! WHAT EIGHT-YEAR-OLD HAS A CELL PHONE?
JESSICA.
WELL, JUST BECAUSE JESS—
AND MADISON, AND TAYLOR, AND MAX, AND AUSTIN, AND SARA, AND KATHERINE, AND SAM, AND JULIA...
WELCOME TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, 2007.

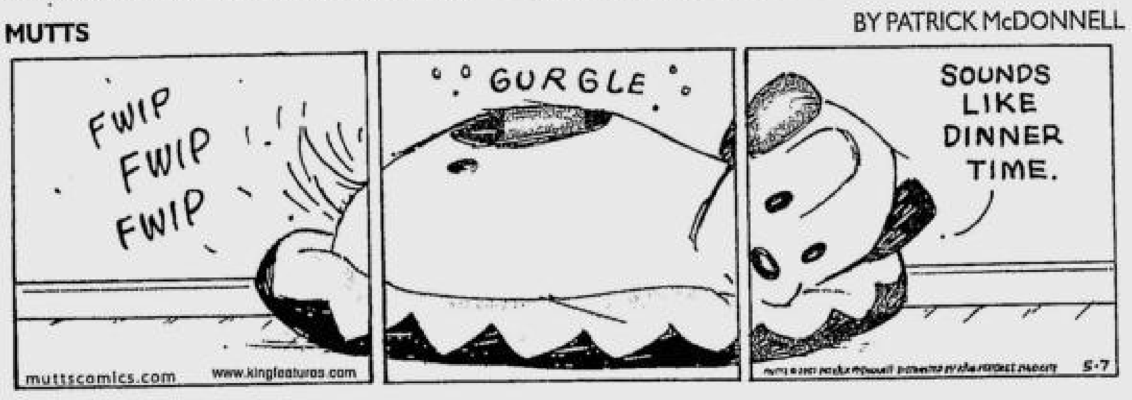
### PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


'TAY, KELAN PO BA KAYO 'MAGRE-RETIRE SA PAGKA-SUNDALO?
PAG NAKA-30 YEARS NA AKO SA SERBISYO.
HINDI BA BORING ANG BUHAY N'YO 'TAY?
30 YEARS KAYONG GI-GISING NG ALAS KWATRO'T PUPUNTA SA KAMPO PARA LANG UTUS-UTUSAN NG MGA OPISYAL.
AT PAG NAG-RETIRE KAYO E KAILANGAN N'YO PA RING MAG-TRABAHO DAHIL MALIIT 'YUNG PENSION N'YO.
PERO MASYADO NA KAYONG MATANDA PARA TANGGAPIN NA SECURITY GUARD.
TEKA... BA'T NGA PALA GISING KA NA NG ALAS-KWATRO?
HINDI PA HO AKO NATUTULOG DAHIL SA KAPE-PLAY-STATION.
SARAP NG BAKASYON ANO 'TAY?

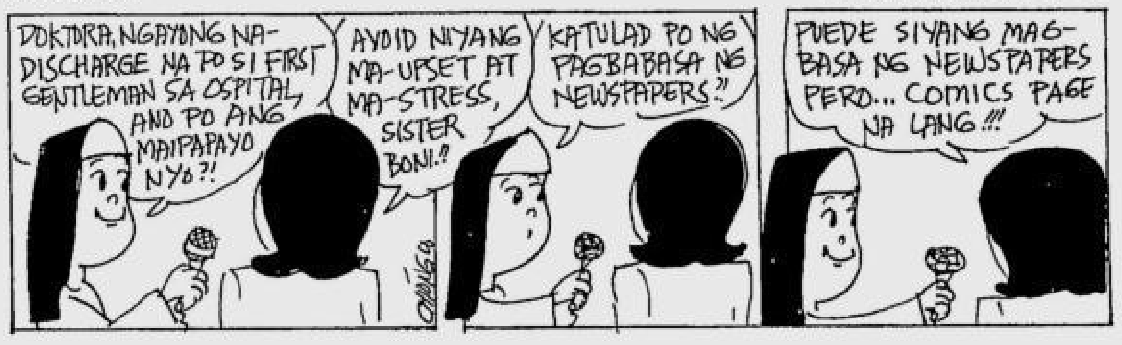
### MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


FWIP FWIP FWIP
GURGLE
SOUNDS LIKE DINNER TIME.
muttscomics.com
www.kingfeatures.com
5-7

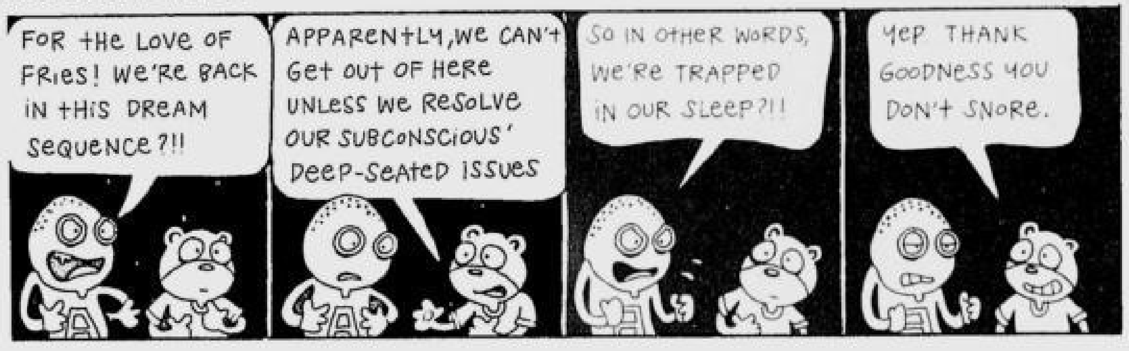
### LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DOKTORA, NGAYONG NA-DISCHARGE NA PO SI FIRST GENTLEMAN SA OSPITAL, ANO PO ANG MAIPAPAYO NYO?!
AVOID NIYANG MA-UPSET AT MA-STRESS, SISTER BONI.!
KATULAD PO NG PAGBABASA NG NEWSPAPERS?!
PUEDE SIYANG MAG-BASA NG NEWSPAPERS PERO... COMICS PAGE NA LANG!!!
CHINGLO

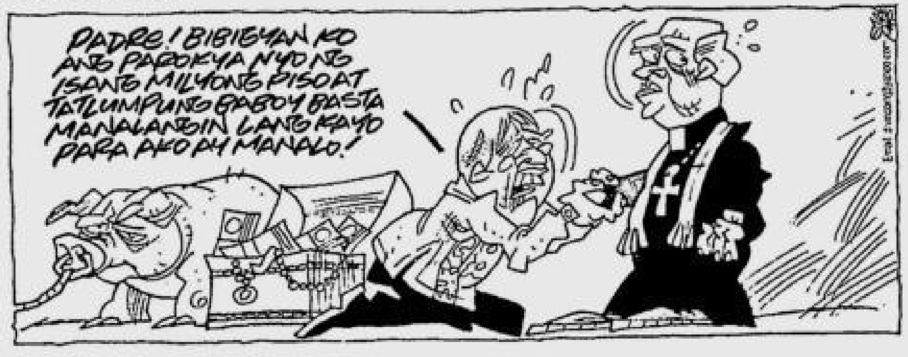
### ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


FOR THE LOVE OF FRIES! WE'RE BACK IN THIS DREAM SEQUENCE?!!
APPARENTLY, WE CAN'T GET OUT OF HERE UNLESS WE RESOLVE OUR SUBCONSCIOUS' DEEP-SEATED ISSUES
SO IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE TRAPPED IN OUR SLEEP?!!
YEP. THANK GOODNESS YOU DON'T SNORE.

### DIVINE COMEDY

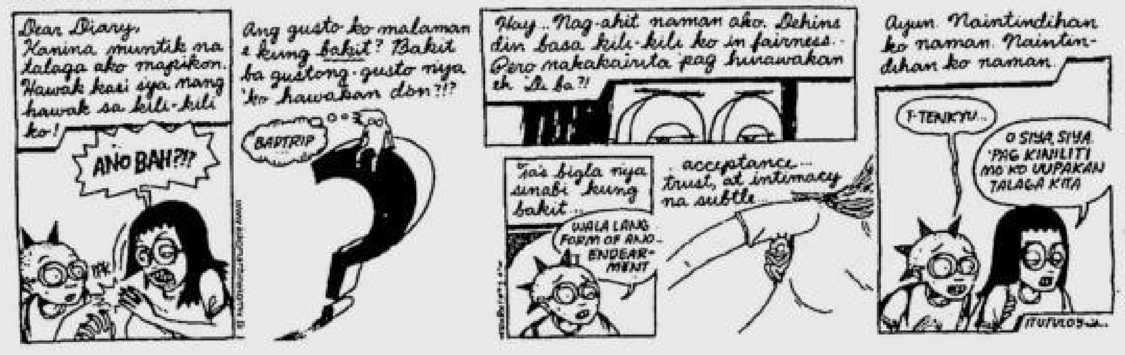
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


PADRE! BIBIGYAN KO ANG PAROKYA NYO NG ISANG MILYONG PISO AT TATLUMPUNG BABOY BASTA MANALANGIN LANG KAYO PARA AKO PO MANALO!

SOME CANDIDATES NEED ALL THE HELP THEY CAN GET

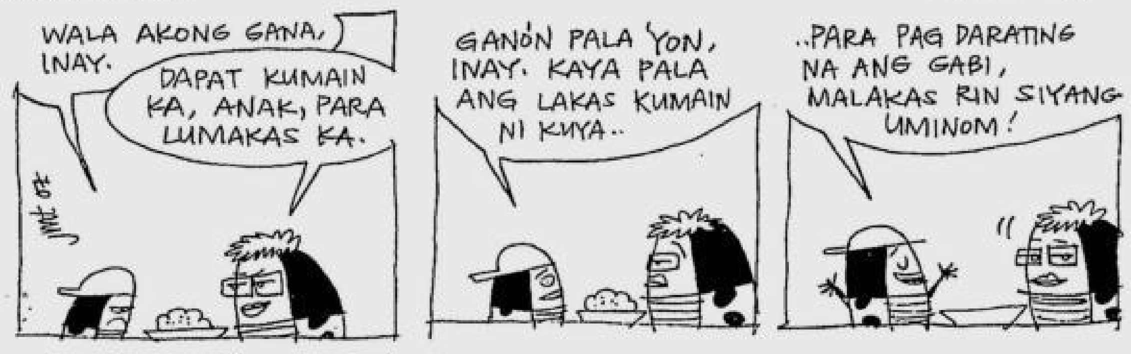
### KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Dear Diary, Kanina muntik na talaga ako mapikon. Hawak kasi siya nang hawak sa kili-kili ko!
ANO BAH?!?
Ang gusto ko malaman e kung bakit? Bakit ba gustong-gusto niya 'ko hawakan don?!?
BADTRIP
Hay.. Nag-ahit naman ako. Dehins din basa kili-kili ko in fairness.. Pero makakainita pag hinawakan eh 'di ba?!
Tas bigla niya sinabi kung bakit..
WALA LANG FORM OF ANO.. ENDEAR-MENT
..acceptance.. trust, at intimacy na subtle..
Ayun. Naintindihan ko naman. Naintindihan ko naman.
T-TENKYU..
O SIYA, SIYA 'PAG KINILITI MO KO UUPAKAN TALAGA KITA

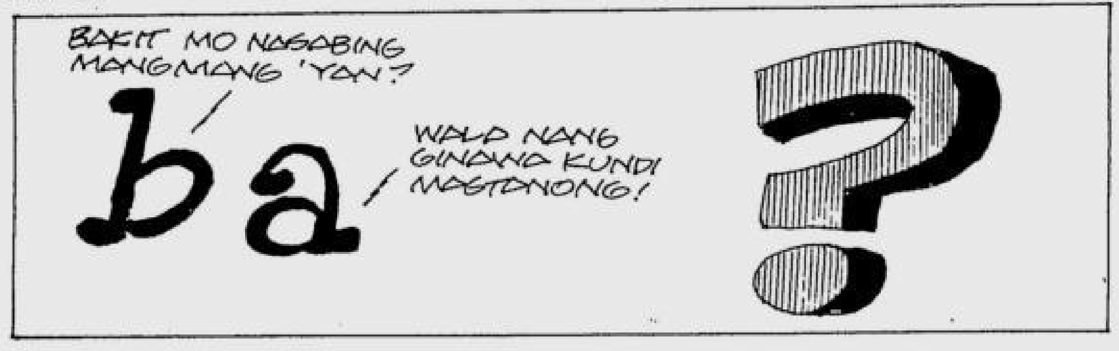
### MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


WALA AKONG GANA, INAY.
DAPAT KUMAIN KA, ANAK, PARA LUMAKAS KA.
GANON PALA 'YON, INAY. KAYA PALA ANG LAKAS KUMAIN NI KUYA..
..PARA PAG DARATING NA ANG GABI, MALAKAS RIN SIYANG UMINOM!

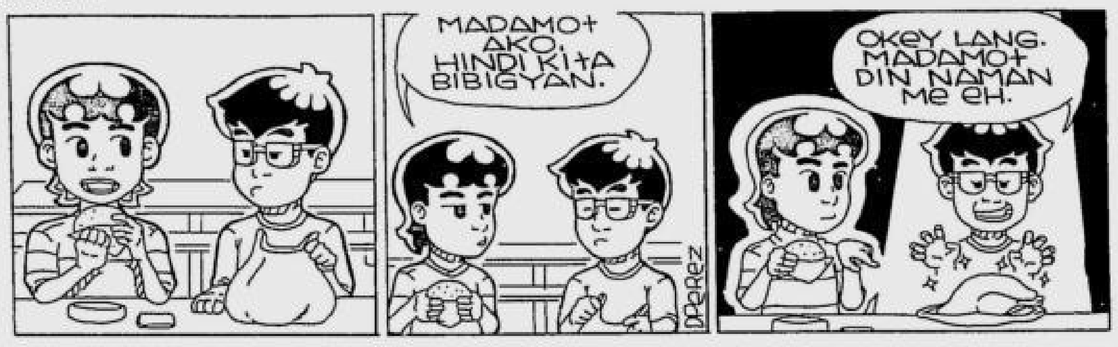
### TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


BAKIT MO NASABING MANGMANG 'YAN?
b
a
WALA NANG GINAWA KUNDI MAGTANONG!
?

### SALAMIN

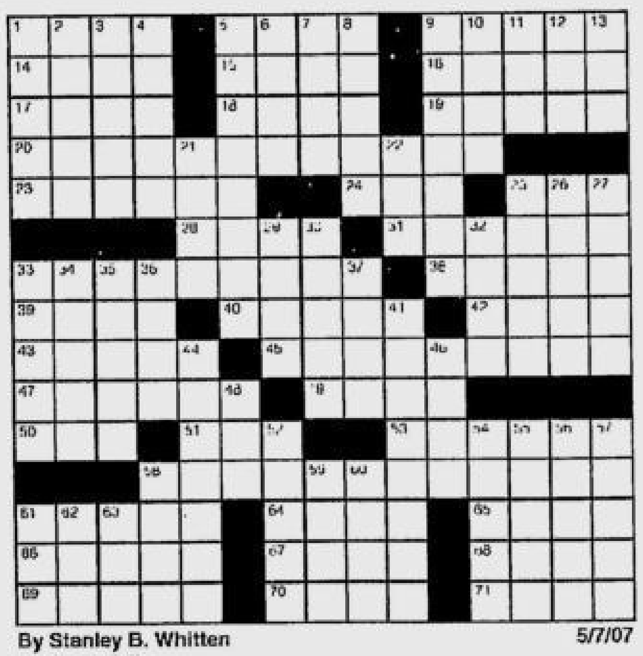
BY DARWIN PEREZ


MADAMOT AKO. HINDI KITA BIBIGYAN.
OKEY LANG. MADAMOT DIN NAMAN ME EH.
DPEREZ

## DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Killer whale
5 Luggage
9 Snapshot
14 Skyrocket
15 Gudrun's victim
16 Commutes
17 Spanish water
18 Potting material
19 Molding curves
20 Conservative talk-show host
23 Types
24 U-turn from NNW
25 Dixie, once
28 Neighbor of S.Dak.
31 Fished
33 Radar setup
38 Give way
39 Prevailing trend
40 Popeye creator
42 Audacity
43 Out of whack
45 Belmont Stakes entry
47 Term paper
49 Slugger Sammy
50 Serpentine curve
51 Spasm
53 Intones
58 Preminger film of 1967
61 Bottom line
64 Top-notch
65 Upolu Island city
66 Soft palate part
67 Borodin's "Prince ___"
68 Teri of 'Tootsie'
69 Eva or Zsa Zsa
70 Chitchats
71 First name in mystery

DOWN
1 Alabama city
2 Scamp
3 Legendary Celtic
4 Indian nannies
5 Old steel helmets
6 Molecule component
7 Silver-tongued
8 Marner of fiction
9 Offspring
10 Way up
11 Ovid opus
12 Golf gadget
13 CIA forerunner
21 The Swedish Nightingale
22 Dos Passos trilogy
25 Cloudless
26 Brings to market
27 Confuse
29 Rabbit's title
30 Hindu tunes
32 Computing axiom
33 Cabinet department
34 Essences
35 Falco and McClurg
36 Slippery catches
37 Frankie in Spanish
41 Savers
44 Nominal
46 Jessica of PTL scandal
48 Letter opener, perhaps
52 Diet guru Jenny
54 Maxim
55 Like some stock
56 Spin around
57 Entrap
58 Angel adornment
59 Hindu discipline
60 Uppity person
61 Pull
62 Cato's eggs
63 Bath vessel



By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL

5/7/07

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | I | S | I | F | D | ■ | ■ | ■ | S | C | R | A | P | S |
| E | N | C | O | D | E | S | ■ | P | A | T | E | L | L | A |
| S | C | H | U | Y | L | K | I | L | L | H | I | V | E | H |
| C | O | O | P | S | ■ | Y | M | A | ■ | S | N | I | D | E |
| A | L | O | E | ■ | S | W | A | N | N | ■ | A | N | G | E |
| L | O | L | ■ | S | M | A | C | K | E | D | ■ | S | E | S |
| ■ | R | O | D | N | E | Y | ■ | S | W | A | T | H | S | ■ |
| ■ | ■ | F | E | E | L | ■ | ■ | ■ | B | R | E | A | ■ | ■ |
| ■ | S | T | R | A | T | A | ■ | S | I | T | A | R | S | ■ |
| A | A | H | ■ | D | E | D | U | C | E | S | ■ | M | U | D |
| C | L | O | D | ■ | R | O | T | H | S | ■ | P | O | N | E |
| E | T | U | I | S | ■ | P | A | L | ■ | H | A | N | D | S |
| S | I | G | N | O | F | T | H | E | Z | O | D | I | A | C |
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5/7/07

## HOROSCOPE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You have a quiet dignity that inspires others. In large measure, this is because in your personal life, you're devoted to your ideals. You never give up going after what you want, even to the point of self-sacrifice. You move and act with grace and classy self-confidence. In the year ahead, a major choice must be made. Choose wisely.

**Birthdate of:** Tim Russert, TV journalist; Johnny Unitas, quarterback; Eva Peron, former Argentinian first lady.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Be careful with financial matters today. When shopping, keep your receipts. Count your change. It's very easy to experience confusion or even deception right now.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** Be extra-clear in all your communications with others, especially bosses, parents and VIPs. If you're not sure what others expect from you, ask them.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** It's possible that someone will do something sneaky or behind your back today. Just be aware of this. If you think something smells fishy, it is!

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Don't be too quick to be disappointed in a friend today. Ask yourself if your expectations were realistic. Did you communicate your expectations clearly?

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Conversations with bosses, parents, VIPs, partners and close friends can go south in a New York minute today. That's because Mercury is at odds with fuzzy Neptune. Watch your step.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Don't fall for clever words from a soapbox today, especially about politics or religion. You can easily be convinced of something, even seduced. Keep your wits about you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Be careful with financial matters, especially related to the responsibilities of others or the care of children, or anything having to do with wills, inheritances and shared property. Something needs to be rechecked.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Conversations with partners and close friends are subject to confusion and misunderstandings. (Remember: Unexpressed expectations lead to disappointment!)

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** Communication with co-workers could be confusing today. Clarify everything at your job. It's good to help others, but don't be a martyr.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Be careful when gambling, doing anything relating to sports or when dealing with children today. People can be very unclear about communication today.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Something with a family member or related to your home scene makes you feel let down. But don't be a victim. Try to communicate to others more clearly in the future.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** In your discussions and dealings with others today (especially with siblings) allow space for some confusion. Make sure others understand you. Make sure you understand them.

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 9 | 5 | 7 | | | 1 | | |
| | 2 | | | 3 | 6 | | 9 | 5 |
| 8 | | | | | 9 | | | 2 |
| | 4 | 8 | | | | | | 7 |
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| 4 | | | 2 | | | | | 6 |
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| | | 6 | | | 1 | 2 | 7 | |

Difficulty Level ★

5/07

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**HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU**

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

Answer to previous puzzle

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | 9 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 6 |
| 4 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 3 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 1 |
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| 1 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 4 |
| 3 | 2 | 9 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 1 | 7 |
| 2 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 6 | 4 | 5 |
| 9 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 3 |
| 6 | 5 | 7 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 8 |

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

# LIFESTYLE

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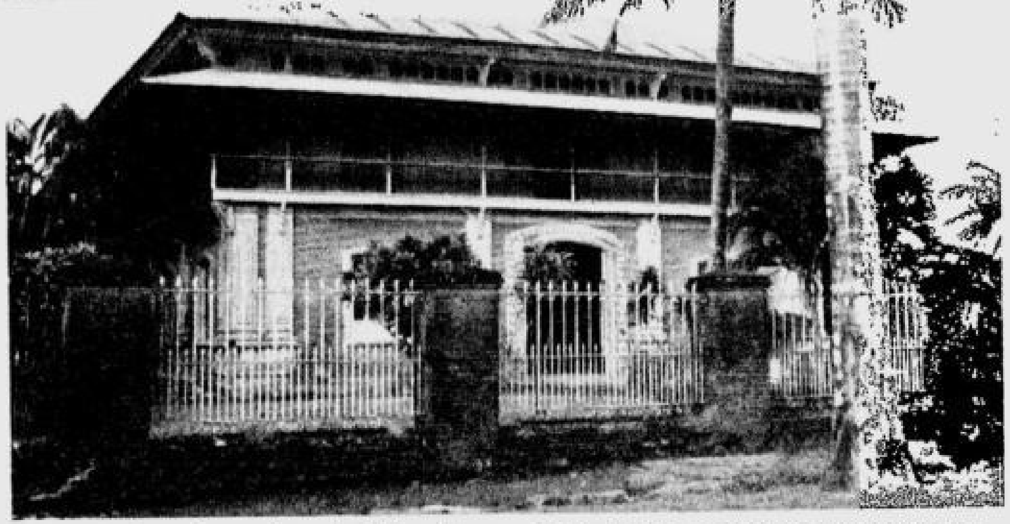
**AT THE Aniceto Lacson house in Talisay, Negros Occidental, the open verandah around the entire second floor provides a sweeping view of the vast family hacienda.**

## PRIDE OF PLACE

*Augusto Villalon*

# Timeless sugarcane landscapes

A TRAIN CROSSING I MADE through Cirebon and Solo in Central Java flashed me back, totally and out of the blue, to a landscape of my youth, when I would spend part of my yearly summer holiday in Negros Oriental, surrounded by the same sugar-cane fields that I was surprised to see in, of all places, Indonesia.

TIMELESS/ D2

> Sugar planting has created a similar landscape and life pattern in all plantation lands, whether Philippine, Indonesian, Caribbean or Latin American

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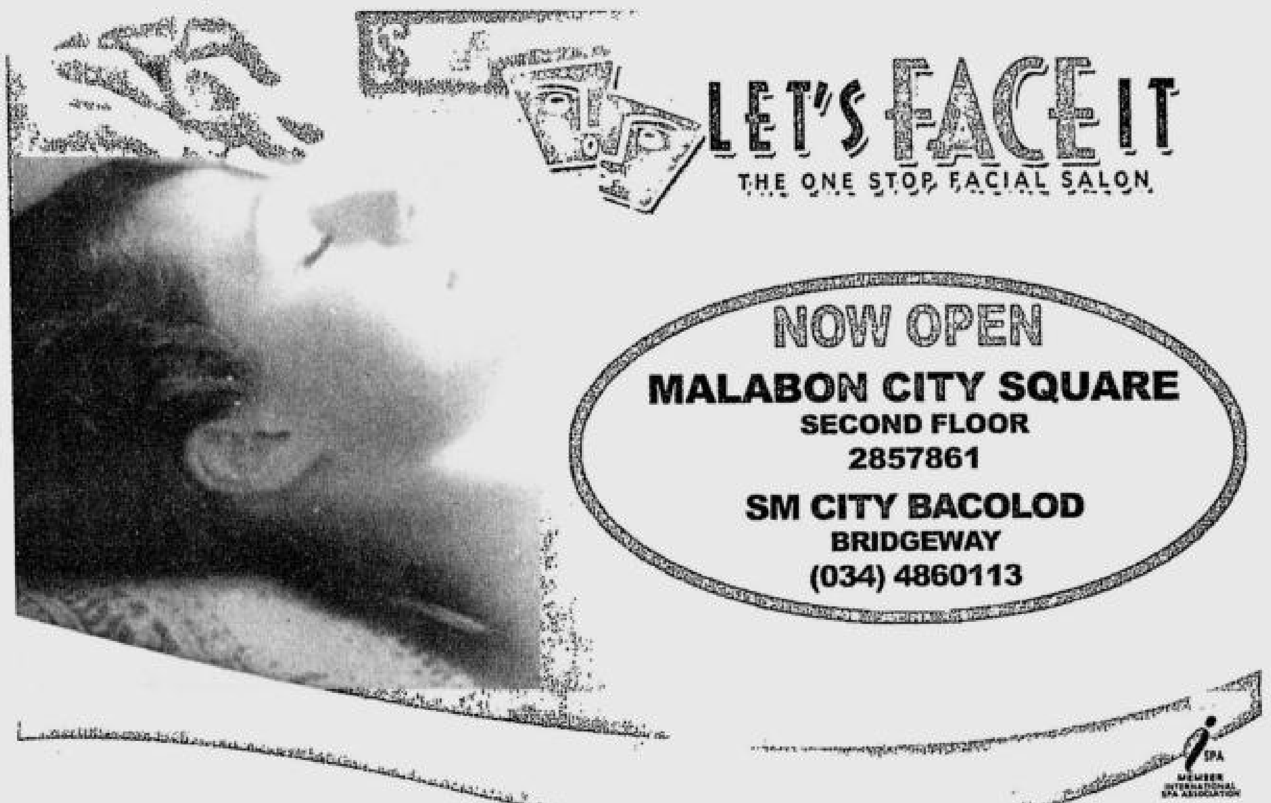
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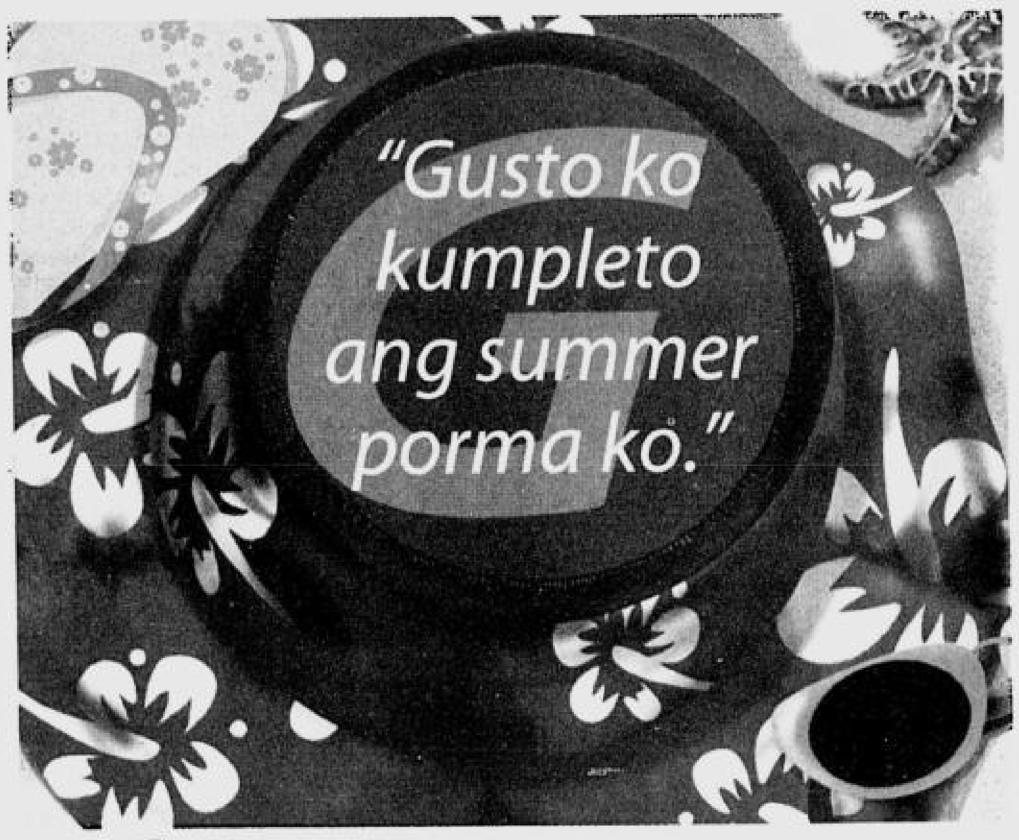
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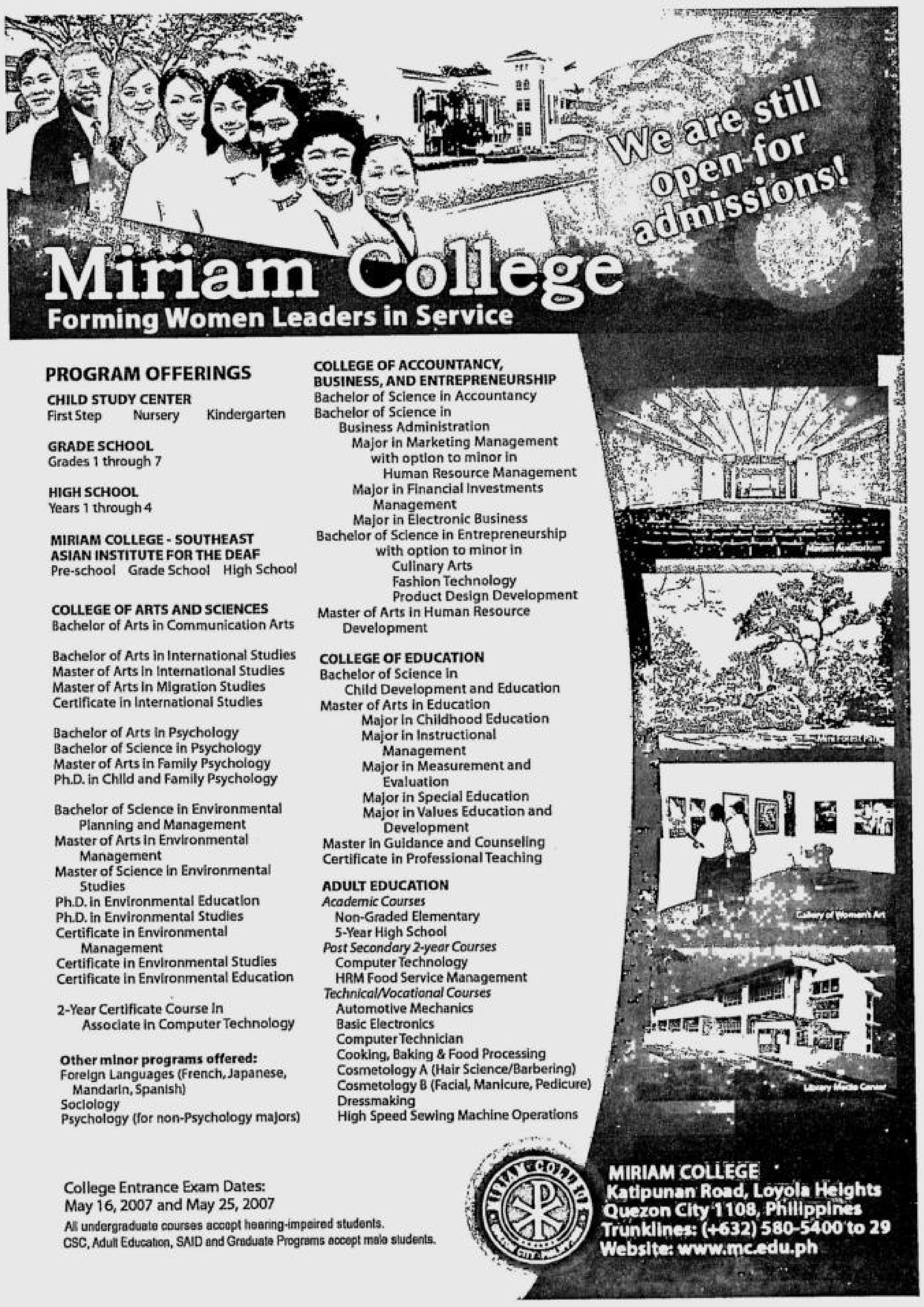
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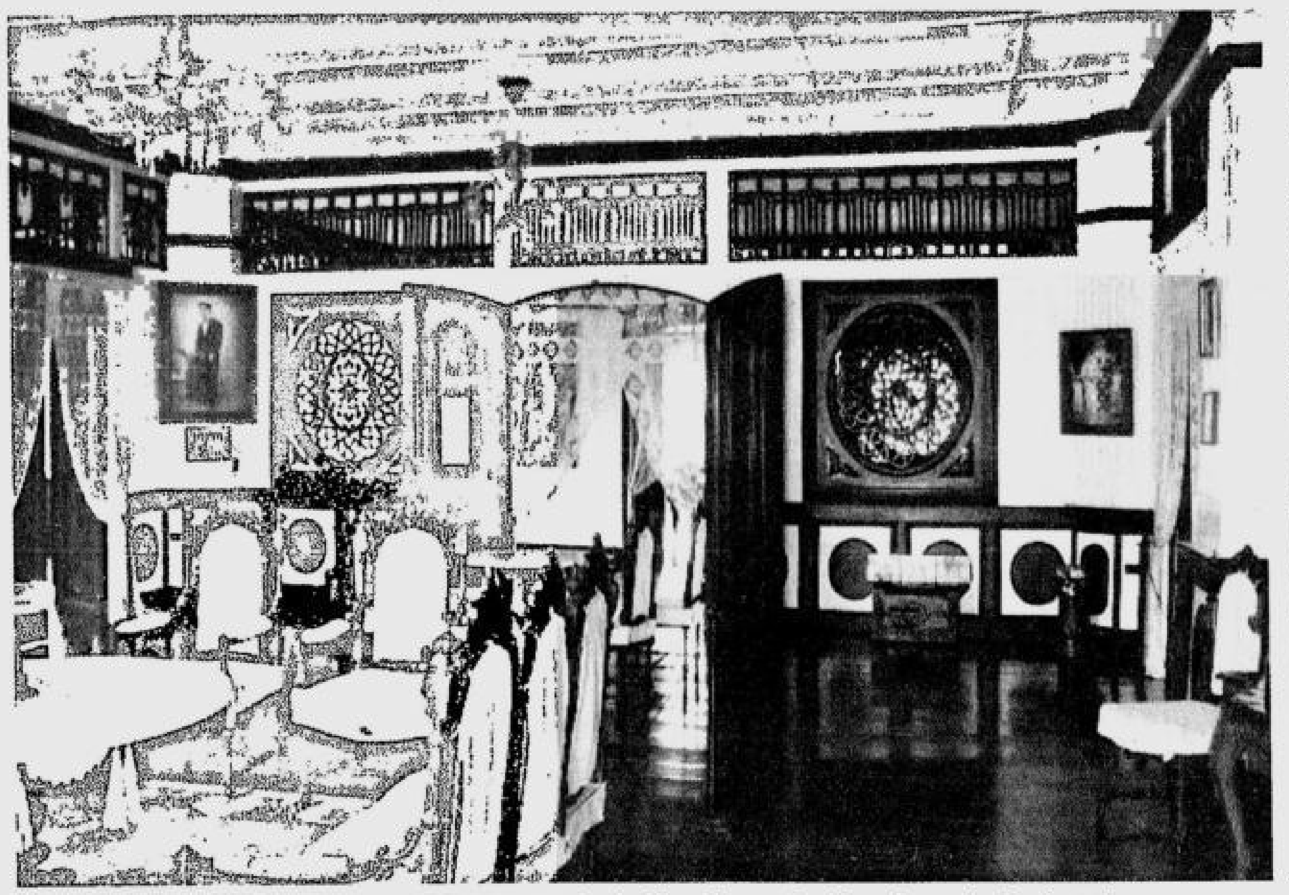
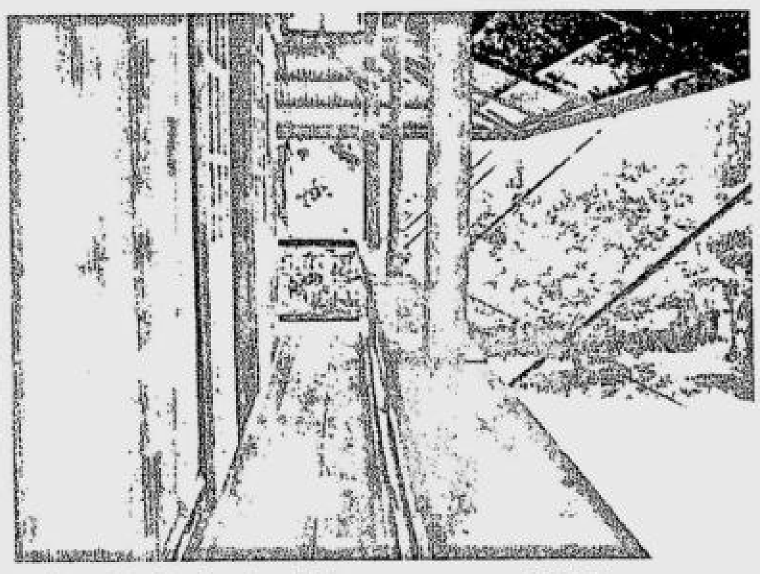
# Timeless sugarcane landscapes

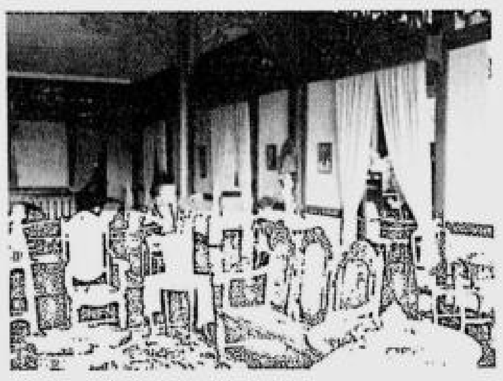
From page D1



TYPICAL of most planter's houses, the Lizares mansion in Silay, Negros Occidental, remains in a lost time zone, a bygone period when prosperity from sugar production was at its height.



**PAST** the foreground garden view from the verandah of the grand Aniceto Lacson house is a panorama of the cane fields surrounding the *casa grande*, or planter's house.



**A FAVORITE** ventilation detail typical of tropical planter's houses worldwide, wooden fretwork decorate Silay's Balay Negrense.

As our train moved across the landscape, I saw a succession of sugar mills appearing one after the other in the distance, their smokestacks territorially marking their private domain of cane fields, nothing really different from the way medieval towers once marked war-contested fiefdoms that have since vanished into the generic, pastoral countryside of today's European Union.

The Javanese landscape, the same deep-green cane fields planted all the way to the horizon, was a familiar scene that I, until that moment of epiphany, associated only with the Philippines. This was because I had not bothered to find out that, after Cuba, Java was the second-largest sugar-producer in the world.

How narrow-minded was that? My Pinoy-centric bias snapped, instantly and embarrassingly breaking out into an expanded worldview. I wasn't as global as I thought I was!

Looking out in déjà vu mode from the comfort of my air-conditioned coach, I relived the humid tropical heat of the plantation fields, remembered the overpowering smell of fresh molasses heavily clouding in the air around sugar mills. How could something so sweet smell so pungent?

During my Negros days, languorous hours stretched endlessly with the sugarcane landscape all the way to the horizon.

Part of those days was spent looking out of a second-floor window at the calming vista of a quiet green sea of feathery stalks undulating with the rolling terrain, swaying in alternating ribbons rippling in waves caused by wind currents rhythmically blowing across different sections of the vast field.

At times the canes rustled with the wind. Normally they were totally still.

The sun's position altered the intensity of the luxurious deep-green landscape during the day, starting with an imperceptible color variation at first, but as your rhythm adapted to that of the hacienda, the different shades of green became more obvious to the eye, developing into the hallmarks that recorded the passing progress of each slow-moving day.

Real time is not important in a plantation where life follows the planting, harvesting and milling cycles of sugar production, a cycle that returns season after season, year after year, decade after decade. The cycle, unchanged for generations, is a touchstone that establishes the routine of plantation life.

Curious about the physical similarities between the Negros Oriental and Javanese landscapes, I realized sugar-planting has created a similar landscape and life pattern in all plantation lands, whether Philippine, Indonesian or on the opposite end of the globe, Caribbean or Latin American, resulting in the separate development of parallel lifestyles and social systems that have revolved around two prominent centers, the sugar mill and the planter's house.

Philippine sugar centrals, their old cane-processing equipment, and especially the period locomotives that survive today are unrecognized examples of industrial heritage, vanishing and vandalized records of one of the earliest global industries of this country.

"Seventy years ago, the steam-powered sugar mills of Java represented 'state-of-the-art' technology," wrote Rob Dickson in "Gula Java," a book on historic Javanese sugar mills. "Remarkably much of that machinery remains in use at the start of the 21st century and is, in effect, a living museum of the steam age."

Are our hacienda homes living museums as well? A few are. In Silay City in Negros Occidental, some of the decaying grand old houses are now museums exhibiting the bygone planter lifestyle that can only continue with the greatest of difficulty and expense in these modern days.

Silay, typical of sugar towns on Negros island, shows a cityscape in the past tense. Grand mansions past their prime stand on now unsure foundations, some neglected, others shabby, ragged at the edges and needing a good scrub. A facelift certainly would achieve wonders for the aging houses.

Negrense hacienda homes, I learned, are our variation of the plantation houses constructed in sugar-producing regions of the world: a large, prominently located structure, the *casa grande* (big house) where the *hacendero* lives, lords over a rural village-type ensemble of a few smaller houses built for key employees and a *camarín* (barn) where farm equipment is stored.

Hacienda house design follows the same pattern anywhere in the world. Steep roofs protrude a wide distance from exterior walls to provide a deep band of shadow to keep the hot sun away from exterior walls and to wash rain as far as possible from windows.

Ceilings are high. Verandahs wrap around the two-story structures. Large windows open to capture the maximum ventilation needed to endure the humid tropics.

Philippine houses go a step farther. Despite partitioning off different areas in hacienda-house interiors, families often lay out individual sleeping mats each night on floors of living rooms or large bedrooms where, in the *bahay kubo* tradition of families living in a single room, everyone sleeps together in one shared space. Foreigners observe that all Filipinos, even the upper class, lived "casually, without doors that closed."

A gingerbread of carved details is a favorite embellishment for planter houses everywhere in the world, whose sweet architectural charm and domestic character adapts to its geographic location: Chinese-inspired in the Philippines; Javanese in Indonesia; Creole with vibrant African colors in the Caribbean and Brazil, all local variations on the global planter's house archetype.

A pattern emerges in most of the houses. Locked into the past, into the more prosperous era of sugar production, their furniture, and especially the objects of daily life such as china, flatware and glassware, remain resolutely period, unvarying props for the planters' constant, unchanging lifestyle.

Far away in the colonies, architecture evokes memories of the old country, whether Spanish, Dutch, British or French. Remember the colonial French planter's mountaintop house on an island in the classic Rogers and Hammerstein film "South Pacific"? That is a classic planter's house.

Once my Bali Hai, Negros Oriental is now the image in my mind of a classic, timeless sugarcane landscape.

## Heritage watch

"Figuring into Abstraction: The Florencio B. Concepcion Retrospective Exhibition," at the Jorge B Vargas Museum in University of the Philippines, hosted an artists' talk, "Memories with Mentors," April 27.

The forum was a roundtable discussion among contemporary artists on the role of teachers and mentors in their personal development. Roundtable participants were former students of Concepcion such as Lao Lianben and Gus Albor. They were joined by Pandy Aviado, Gerry Tan and Ferdinand Doctolero.

The exhibition highlights Concepcion's artistic development from his student days at UP School of Fine Arts, to his scholarship for graduate studies in the Fine Art Academy in Rome, his professional practice where he was a proponent of abstract painting in the Philippines, and his stint as dean of the University of the East College of Fine Arts.

The exhibit is co-curated by Victoria Herrera of the Department of Art Studies, College of Arts and Letters, UP Diliman; and Albert Avellana of the Avellana Art Gallery.

*Call 9281927, email vargasmuseum@gmail.com, or visit www.vargasmuseum.org.*
*E-mail the author at pride.place@gmail.com.*

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YOUNG TAYABAS folk take part in the traditional Santacruzan.

# *Tayabas holds 'Mayohan' fiesta*

TAYABAS, QUEZON, IS HOLDING THE annual Mayohan sa Tayabas festival until May 15.

Mayor Severina Nadres says the festival is a 10-day celebration of Tayabas heritage.

The theme of this year's festivity is "City of Tayabas Opens a New Door, Provides Wider Opportunities," in line with the town's bid to achieve cityhood by 2010.

Activities include training on trade, business and entrepreneurship; acoustic-music night; theater and dance contest; *budin* plating and cake contest; agro-trade fair; and other socio-civic events.

The 1st Invitational Trail Dirt Bike Racing Competition will also be launched to encourage bikers to explore the scenic countryside of Tayabas.

Other events are traditional parade of *baliskog* (welcome arches of native materials) and *suman* (traditional Tagalog rice cake), as well as the colorful Santacruzan processions.

The highlight of the fiesta is the *hagisan ng suman* on May 15, in which participants jostle each other to get the *suman* thrown out of the windows of the houses.

Mayohan is a thanksgiving feast in honor of San Isidro Labrador, patron saint of farmers.

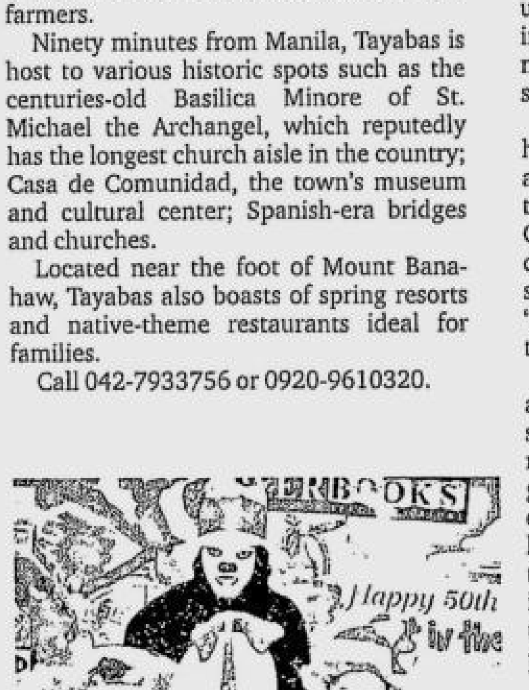
Ninety minutes from Manila, Tayabas is host to various historic spots such as the centuries-old Basilica Minore of St. Michael the Archangel, which reputedly has the longest church aisle in the country; Casa de Comunidad, the town's museum and cultural center; Spanish-era bridges and churches.

Located near the foot of Mount Banahaw, Tayabas also boasts of spring resorts and native-theme restaurants ideal for families.

Call 042-7933756 or 0920-9610320.

---

**WINNERS** of the costume contest with Cat in the Hat: Louis Maxwell for funniest costume; Juliane Mae dela Cruz for cutest costume; and Pamela Uy for most original costume. PowerBooks Specialty Store recently celebrated the 50th birthday of Cat in the Hat, Dr. Seuss' most popular character. Kids enjoyed an afternoon of arts and crafts, storytelling and games, with prizes from PowerBooks and Nestlé. Free face-painting and picture-taking activities added to the fun. There was also an Easter-egg hunt.



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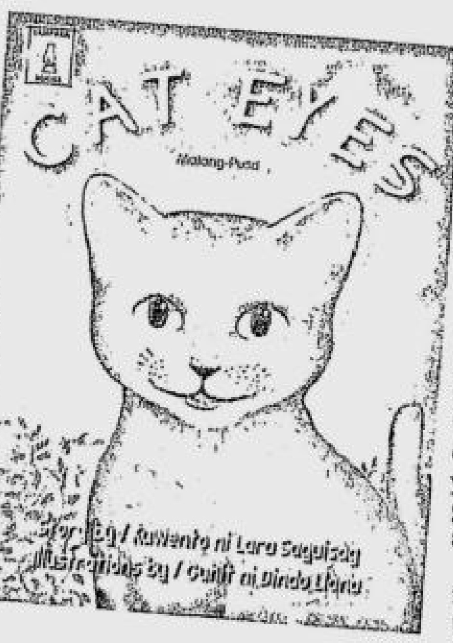
# True power of the 'Cat Eyes'

**Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz**
*Contributor*


A
CAT EYES
Matang-Pusa
Story by / Kuwento ni Lara Saguisag
Illustrations by / Guhit ni Dindo Llana

A RECENT AND BELATED DISCOVERY is this delightful book, "Cat Eyes" by Lara Saguisag (illustrations by Dindo Llana, with text in Filipino; Lampara Publishing House, Inc, 2006) .

It begins with two contrasting scenes. The cat heroine talks of her frolic in the empty lot, chasing birds, rolling among the flowers, digging through the trashcans. In the same empty lot, a girl also frolics, but doing the exact opposite—feeding the birds, caring for the flowers and showing her displeasure over the upturned cans.

The tension builds up between the cat and the girl. Angered by the cat's playfulness, the girl chases the cat away with a stick. The cat is upset and wants to retaliate by attacking the girl in the best feline manner—jumping and hissing at her, even scratching her arms.

REVIEW

The girl's parents are horrified by her behavior and her grandmother tries to calm her down. One smiles at the elder's words of wisdom, said with some snootiness: "Those are not proper things to do. Even if we're strays."

To redirect her granddaughter's anger, she teaches her a secret magic spell called "cat eyes." It simply means using the power of the cat's gaze to outstare and to paralyze the enemy into a passive state. It's easy to learn—wiggling the nose once, twitching the ears twice, and swishing the tail thrice. The true power of the "cat eyes" is that it can change people's minds.

Toward the end, there's now friendship and affection between the cat and the girl. After the "cat eyes" trick, the girl even takes note of the color of the cat's eyes as she prepares to cuddle her.

One cannot but notice Saguisag's strong sense of poetry and her lyrical use of images in this slim book: the cat's whiskers shuddering in shock, the grandma's cat eyes seeming to be on fire, and the "bit of magic tingling in her" at the discovery of a new-found friend.

Llana's illustrations boost the playfulness of the storyline, climaxing in the staring scene between the two characters where each other's eyes reflect each other's images. The colors are vivid and strong, but the printing is uneven.

Llana's drawings are dramatic and uncluttered. The girl is first introduced menacingly, with thonged right foot, chubby toes and a stick in hand. The shift in story mood is captured by Llana especially as the girl smiles while carrying the cat. In turn, the cat beams on the last page, her cat eyes reflecting a magic twinkle.

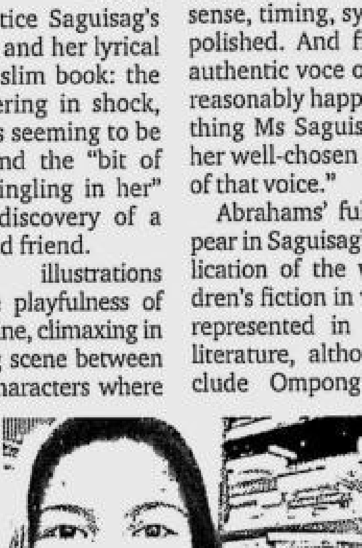
The storyline shows a well-studied and logical structure and offers a varied and challenging vocabulary for the early reader. It is a book that challenges the child reader; it doesn't talk down on him.

Saguisag's first children's books are on autism, "There's a Dwende in My Brother's Soup!" and "Tonyo's Wishes." While completing her MFA in Creative Writing at the New School in New York, her poem, "Children of Two Seasons," was selected winner of the 2006 Writing for Children Chapbook Series competition, yearly sponsored by the writing program of the school. Winning works are published.

The judge, Peter Abrahams, was impressed by Saguisag's entry: "Her technique is strong, her rhythmic sense, timing, syntax and imagery all polished. And finally the voice, the authentic voce of the bright, curious, reasonably happy child: The very best thing Ms Saguisag does is to not let her well-chosen words get in the way of that voice."

Abrahams' full comments will appear in Saguisag's chapbook. The publication of the work will boost children's fiction in verse, which is hardly represented in Philippine children's literature, although practitioners include Ompong Remigio, Rhandee Garlitos, Virgilio Almario and Rene Villanueva.

Saguisag will continue her studies in the United States as she is the recipient of a Rutgers University fellowship for a Ph.D in Childhood Studies.



"CAT EYES" author Lara Saguisag

*The author is a member of the Philippine Board on Books for Young People. E-mail her at nenisrc@gmail.com.*

# Spanish-flavored ballet

UNFILLED SEATS AT THE SPACIOUS CCP Main Theater notwithstanding, Ballet Philippines' "Neo-Filipino: Espafia Extension," which ended its 37th season, got a rave response from avid dance fanatics, students, choreographers, teachers and dancers. They echoed a resounding "bravo" to most of the performances, which sought to combine ballet and Spanish forms and themes, including flamenco.

The title referred to the well-known street in Sampaloc, Manila, that evoked the country's Hispanic past. The title was a metaphor for the cross-cultural exchanges between the two countries.

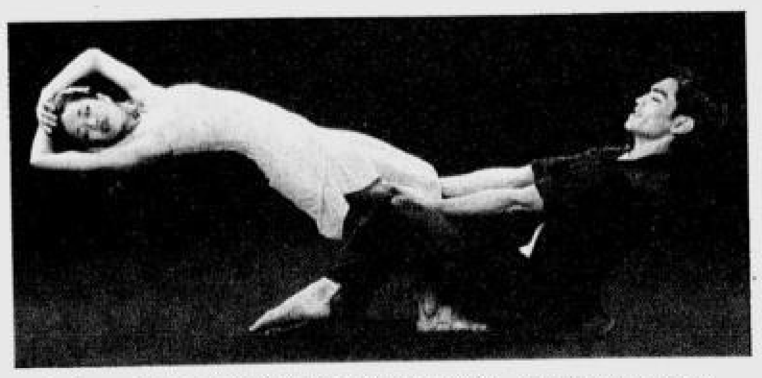
Performed by Singapore-based Angel Gomez and artistic director Emma Estrada of Centro Flamenco, the Andalusian tap dance numbers "Farruca," "Enamorarse" and "Zapateado de Sarasate" oozed with Spanish ardor and flair.

One wonders in amazement how many steps Gomez's and Estrada's feet could make in a single beat, while they kept hand movements in adagio. These two must have eaten a lot of chili powder for breakfast.

The BP company showcased difficult lifts, well-stretched limbs, and precise and featherweight footwork, which meshed well with the Spanish-themed music and interpretations.

The interpretations included artistic director Bam Damian's reworking of "Carmen: A Trilogy," which followed after the late Eric Cruz's version of the hour-long opera by George Bizet. Damian's work focused on the tragic love triangle between the three pivotal characters: Carmen, Don José and Escamillo.

Carissa Adea's Carmen was an aggressive little Gypsy who could seduce both Angel Gabriel's dramatic but wobbly Don José and Jayson Pescasio's sturdy Escamillo, who got to do all the barreling turns.



**SCENE** from Bam Damian's "Carmen"

In the end, the *señorita*'s naughty caresses (which elicited giggles from the audience) did not save her from the older soldier's jealous rage—and murderous knife.

### Wooing dance

In resident choreographer Alden Lugnasin's "Cucurrucucu Paloma," Biag Gaongen adeptly played a love-struck (or sick?) flower boy, who wooed—through a virile dance and an armload of roses—what turned out to be his imaginary ladylove: a headless statue veiled and clothed in white.

Not to be ignored were BP's corps renditions: a well-applauded "State of No Mind" by Lugnasin and Estrada which fused ballet and flamenco; and the risqué "Deseo" by David Russo which, while difficult to discern, was still an impressive profusion of enigmatic dancers in an ostensibly sex-induced limbo.

The tasteful minimalist set and light design by Tats Manahan, Jonjon Manahan, and Lito Borromeo greatly contributed to the Spanish ambience of the production.

Businessman Tony Cojuangco and Maan Hontiveros, BP board chair and president, respectively, made special appearances in a delightful overture with the Guitar Friends Ensemble. Hontiveros was quick to note in the program that she "did not force" the artistic director to let her perform.

**DAVID** Russo's sexy "Deseo"

# National bonsai exhibit, contest

THE PHILIPPINE BONSAI SOCIETY INC. (PBSI) headed by Bobby Gopiao, grand prize winner in the World Bonsai Contest 2006 in Washington, DC, will hold the 4th National Bonsai Open Exhibition and Competition June 1-10 at the Music Hall, ground level of SM Mall of Asia.

Some 130 bonsai arrangements are expected to be displayed, says Michael Morden, chair of the 4th PBSI Show 2007 and president of the Pangasinan Bonsai Society.

Bonsai masters from Taiwan and local artists will give lectures and demonstrations.

Children ages 8-12 are invited to attend the Kiddie Bonsai Workshop (text 0920-901-1410).

Bonsai enthusiasts can enroll in basic and advance workshops (text 0918-7268818).

At least 65 commercial booths will comprise the plant and garden bazaar.

Those interested to join can text Anthony Arbias at 0919-6096300 or e-mail glantiern@yahoo.com.

The PBSI marks its 34th anniversary this year.

# *Auditions for Tanghalang Pilipino sarswela*

TANGHALANG PILIPINO ANNOUNCES auditions for the cast of "Pilipinas Circa 1907."

The auditions on May 8-10 will be held 6-10 p.m. at Bulwagang Amado Hernandez, Upper Ground Floor, Tanghalang Pambansa, CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

TP is looking for strong male and female actors who can sing and move and are 18 years old and above. Submit a resumé with two photos (a 2"x2" head shot and a 3"x5" full-body shot), and be prepared to do a movement piece and read scenes from the script.

Auditionees will also be required to perform the song "Jocelynang Baliwag." Copies of the audition piece are available at the Tanghalang Pilipino office, 2/F, Production Design Center Bldg., CCP Complex, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City.

Applicants must be available for the production schedule with rehearsals running for six weeks before the opening on Aug. 10, and weekend performances at Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino (CCP Little Theater) until September.

"Pilipinas Circa 1907" is about political conflict and family relations that get in the way of two pairs of star-crossed lovers when America was more in the heart. It is set in the period before the national elections for the Philippine assembly in 1907. With 2007 being an election year, the landmark *sarswela* by Nicanor G. Tiongson and Lutgardo Labad, Lucien Letaba, Louie Pascacio, Chino Toledo, among others, last performed by Tanghalang Pilipino in 1994, will be revived in a new production to be directed by Dennis Marasigan.

Call 8323661 or 8321125 locals 1620/1621 Tuesdays-Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., or e-mail ccptanghalan@yahoo.com.

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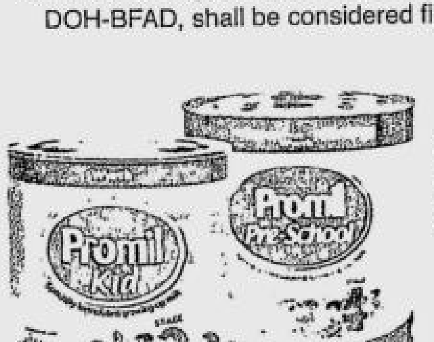

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# Remembering Rostropovich

## The late great cellist was moved by the thunderous reception he got when he performed in Manila in the early 1980s

**By Pablo A. Tariman**
*Contributor*

**MSTISLAV** Rostropovich, cello master

MY LAST STORY ABOUT MEMORABLE Russian artists came out amid the news that the legendary Russian cellist Mstislav Rostropovich had passed away. He was 80.

How can anyone forget the great Rostropovich?

In the early '80s, he was the divine soloist in the Dvorak concerto with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra under Oscar Yatco. He was also the conductor of the Saint-Saens piano concerto with Cecile Licad as soloist. These concerts of a lifetime all happened at the Cultural Center of the Philippines with Imelda Marcos as impresario.

Rostropovich referred to Licad as a "great pianist and a wonderfully unassuming one."

I also liked Rostropovich's sense of humor. When told that there was an Ivory Mafia (composed of pianists led by Nena del Rosario Villanueva) in Manila, he cheerfully referred to himself as the Ebony Mafia.

The shower of confetti after his performance looked overdone, but the cellist was overwhelmed by Filipino hospitality. "I am deeply touched," he said. "I have received so much honors and now I am very nervous, more nervous than in any concert. You have a beautiful population, beautiful sea and sky, beautiful breeze. I come back not once but many times."

For the finale, he fished out a crumpled piece of paper from his pocket and said in halting Filipino: "*Marami pong salamat. Mahal ko kayo at ang inyong bayan* [Thank you. I love you all and your country]."

The standing ovation for Rostropovich was reminiscent of the wild standing ovation for the great Russian ballerina Maya Plisetskaya.

After he was given the International Artist Award, Rostropovich was treated to a fashion show where the regal bearing of model Crispy Santamaria Laurel captivated him. He later eagerly shook hands with the stunning Filipina model in Malacañang.

Five years ago, when he was 75, Rostropovich said that, at the end of his life, he could only name three supreme figures: Prokofief, Shostakovich and Britten.

Asked about the sound he wanted for his cello, he said he needed 100-200 sounds to elicit all the kinds of emotion music requires.

"When I look at the musical score without my instrument, I try to understand that kind of emotions and feelings experienced by the composer when he was writing the music. When Shostakovich and Prokofief played for me, I not only listened but also watched their faces. And when I saw that these faces expressed some intense feelings, I recognized that these were very important places in the music."

**RUSSIAN** pianist Sergey Kuznetsov dedicates his Manila concert tonight to Rostropovich.

He recalled that when Shostakovich played the First Cello Concerto for him for the first time, he knew the composer was having a personal ordeal with his wife, whom he was divorcing at the time. "When he played the second movement for me, I saw at one moment that tears were rolling down his cheeks and, striking his chest, he said to me 'Slava, I'm sorry but this composition is very near to my heart.' So when I look at the music, I ask myself: What is the best kind of sound for this emotion?"

When asked what he still wanted to achieve after all his musical conquests, the cellist said: "Well, generally, I feel I haven't completed anything in life—I am only halfway through!"

The Philippine debut tonight at the Philamlife Theater of Russian pianist Sergey Kuznetsov will be dedicated to Rostropovich.

By coincidence, Kuznetsov was supposed to play Shostakovich's First Concerto with Rostropovich, but with the latter's untimely demise, the duet will no longer be realized.

"Yes, his passing away is a great loss for all of us," Kuznetsov told the INQUIRER.

The program for tonight's concert will include Beethoven's Sonata No. 27 in E Minor, Op. 90; Tchaikovsky's Scherzo Humoristic and Meditation, Op. 72, No. 5; Ravel's Gaspard de la nuit; Scriabin's Sonata No. 3 in F Sharp Minor, Op 23; and Chopin's Sonata No. 3 in B Minor, Op. 58.

For tickets, please call 9007023 , 4972971 or cell 09065104270.

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# UP Centennial literary awards launched

LIKHAAN: THE UP INSTITUTE OF CREATIVE Writing is formally launching the UP Centennial Gawad Likhaan, a literary contest, as part of the celebrations of the UP Centennial in 2008, with the approval of the UP Centennial Commission.

Six awards—each one worth P200,000—will be offered for original, book-length works in the following categories: a novel or short-story collection in English; novel or short-story collection in Filipino; poetry collection in English; poetry collection in Filipino; full-length work or collection of creative nonfiction in English; and a full-length work or collection of *sanaysay* in Filipino.

The competition is open to all Filipino citizens (including Filipinos holding dual citizenship), except for the members of the UP-ICW and its staff.

There will be only one prize per category. Authors may submit only one entry per category. Works which have already been awarded a prize in other contests are not eligible. Subject or theme is open.

The complete rules are available at the UP-ICW office in UP Diliman. They will also be uploaded on the UP-ICW website and on www.panitikan.com, the literary portal hosted by the UP-ICW.

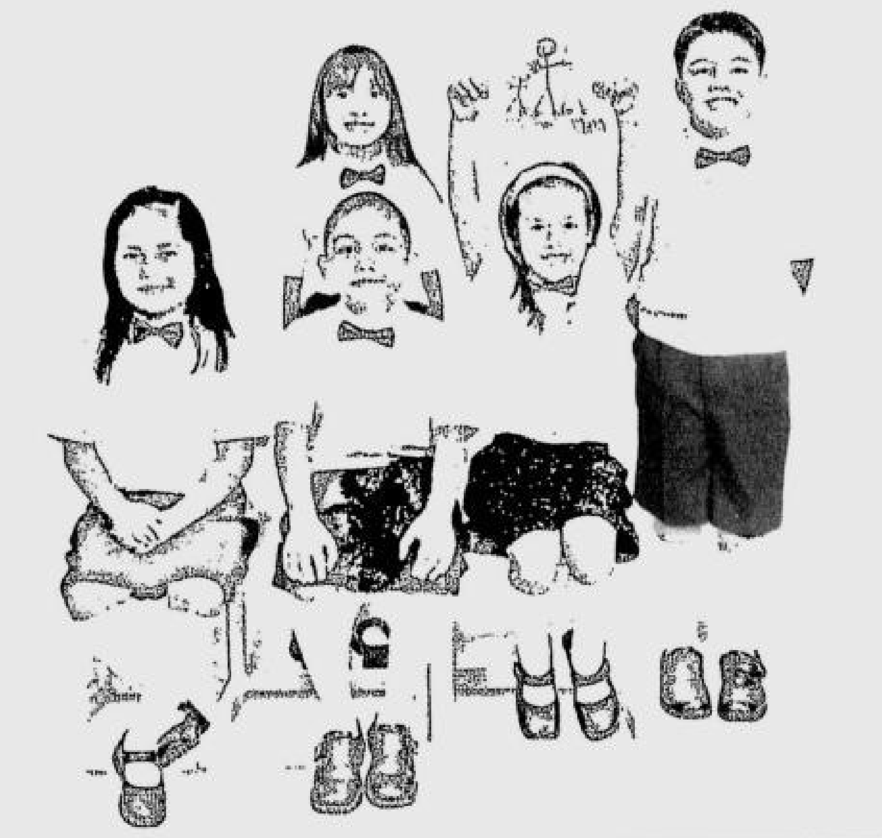
The UP Centennial Gawad Likhaan is being held in commemoration of the important role University of the Philippines has played in the shaping and nurturing of the country's literature. To date, UP has produced seven National Artists for Literature and numerous other writers who have achieved recognition both nationally and internationally.

In keeping with its mandate of taking the lead in the development of a national literature, the UP-ICW serves not just the faculty and students of UP but also the larger community of writers and the country itself.

Almost all writers, established and emerging, have been fellows of the annual national writers' workshops conducted by the UP-ICW or students in its Creative Writing and *Malikhaing Pagsulat* programs.

All entries for the contest should be submitted to the Board of Judges, Likhaan: the UP Institute of Creative Writing, Faculty Center, UP Diliman. Deadline for submission is March 31, 2008 at 5 p.m.

The names of the winners and the members of the board of judges will be announced in June 2008.



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# ENTERTAINMENT

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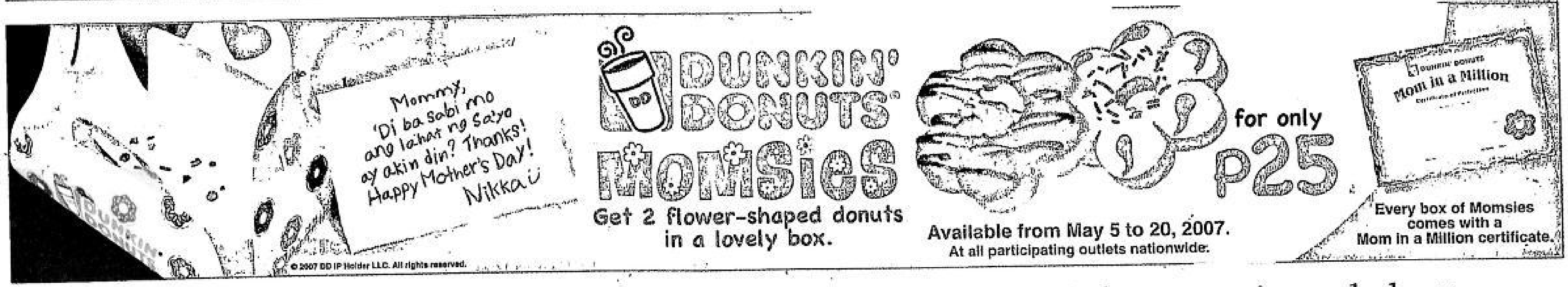
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**DJ TITO Potato and Mama Sugar of Yes FM** RYAN LIM

# Race on for 'fave' FM station

### Contenders crank up basic ingredients–jokes, music and chatter

**By Pocholo Concepcion**
*Contributor*

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE A "favorite radio station"?

Is this decided by the kind of music that a station adopts for its daily programming? Or by the format? Or maybe the deejays—how large a following they command among listeners? Or does it all boil down to the much-valued Kapisanan ng mga Broadkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP) survey, the results of which are trumpeted by whichever station takes top spot for a certain period?

These days, at least three FM stations in Metro Manila are goading listeners with intermittent promotional plugs, each one starting with, "What's your favorite radio station?", followed by the station's tagline.

Love Radio 90.7: "*Kailangan pa bang i-memorize 'yan? Bisyo na 'to!*"

Yes FM 101.1: "*Derecho*… Yes FM… Yesterday *pa!*"

WRR 101.9: "*Alam mo na 'yan*… 101.9… For life!"

Love Radio claims it's been the number one FM station for four consecutive years, based on KBP surveys that the deejays read on the air from time to time. The accuracy of said surveys may be questioned by the competition, of course. Apparently, the more binding proof is determined by what is heard in buses, jeepneys and taxicabs, in the malls and also in offices where radio music is played.

The operative word is "heard"—because a cab may be brandishing a Love Radio sticker, but the driver is listening to Yes FM.

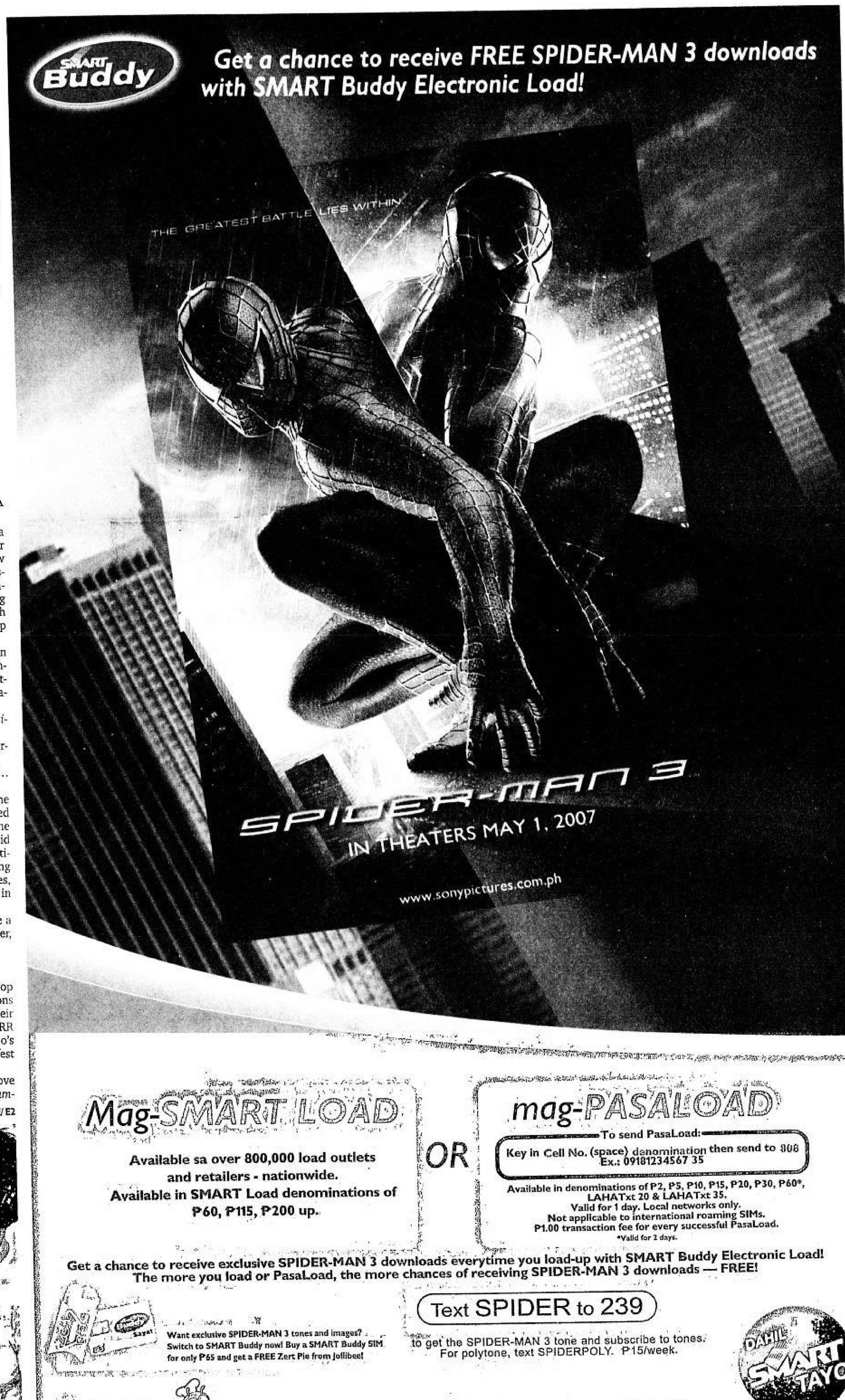
## Challenge

In any case, Love Radio does seem to be top dog at the moment, at least among stations that count on the teeming masses to be their faithful audiences. Consider: Yes FM, WRR and, lately, LS 97.1, emulate Love Radio's street-wise *Tagalog* and running gag-fest broadcasting style.

To challenge the winning tandem of Love deejays Chris Tsuper and Nicolehyala ("*Tam-*

RACE/ E2

**NICOLE, left and Chris of Love Radio** RODEL ROTONI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# Race on for 'fave'FM station

From page E1

TITO Potato and Mama Sugar takes intensely competitive 6 to 9 a.m. drive slot.

RYAN LIM

DJ JOHN Hendrix of LS FM

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

*balan ng Isang Balasubas at Isang Balahura*"), Yes FM has posted Tito Potato and Mama Sugar in the intensely competitive 6 to 9 a.m. drive slot, while WRR has Martin D and Billie ("*Tambalang Mabangis, Inyong Mga Kabagis*") on board from 8 to 10 a.m.

## A little sluggish

Tito Potato and Mama Sugar have yet to match the snap and spontaneity of Chris and Nicole. And while WRR's Martin D is engaging, with his solid, textured voice and comic timing, the jokes he throws around with Billie are at times a little sluggish.

For example, this one scripted like a radio drama:

"*Naku siguradong uutangan na naman ako nito—di naman nagbabayad...*"

"Hi, *kumusta, lalo ka yatang gumaganda ngayon. Pautang naman ng* P100..."

"*Ayoko nang magpautang sa 'yo; nakakasira ng pagkakaibigan 'yan...*"

"*Ganu'n ba, e di galit na tayo simula ngayon, hindi na tayo magkaibigan. O, pwede nang umutang?*"

Similarly, Yes FM should try to crank up the hilarity. This joke was heard a few nights ago:

"*Sumakay ng* elevator *sina* Brownie *at* Bruno. *Tanong ni* Brownie: '*Magkano ang ibabayad natin?*'"

"*Sagot ni* Bruno: '*Ano ka ba,* Brownie, *para kang inosente a, bakit magbabayad ka na, hindi pa nga tayo binibigyan ng* tiket?'"

## Fast talk on LS

The former Campus Radio WLS 97.1 now goes by the call sign "97. 1 Barangay LS, Forever!"—with fast-talking deejays like Johnny Baby working at sounding cool with street lingo, but ending up just a tad cutesy:

"*Ang oras po natin, alas* nine o'clock *ng* morning!"

In a press release announcing its new name and strategy, the Barangay LS station manager said the move was meant to deliver what advertisers wanted. That supposedly meant sponsors nowadays would rather put money where deejays clown around and crack jokes throughout the day.

But the jokes, not a few of them sent by listeners, tend to fall flat:

"*Anong kulay ng prutas?*"

"*Kayumangga!*"

"*Anong* shampoo *ang nakakahilo?*"

"Shampoo-*tok!*"

"*Anong* net *ang hindi ginagamit sa* sports?"

"Spray net!"

A fourth station, right beside Love Radio on the dial, likewise subscribes to the Pinoy talk-and-humor approach. The bandwagon effect is beginning to insult listeners' intelligence—as if everyone tuned in is presumed to be a dimwit:

"Hi Pangga, *may* energy *ka ba?* 91.5, Energy FM! It's... joke time":

"*Ano ang pagkakaiba ng elepante at langaw?*"

"*Ang elepante, pag namatay, nilalangaw... Pero nakakita ka na ba ng langaw na namatay na ineelepante?!*"

FOR RJ, it's about the music.

EDWIN BACASMAS

## And the music?

What happened to the music?

In the 1970s and '80s, the jocks of DZRJ wooed and won listeners by playing some of the most engaging and enlightening music that was not necessarily on the charts. At one point, RJ even became a top-rating, album-oriented radio station because it was playing music not heard elsewhere.

The only station that succeeded with a joke-oriented format then was WKC 93.9, whose former station manager at the time was Mike Enriquez.

But, of course, times have changed—even if there's more variety today with several stations playing jazz and acoustic rock, and the rest retaining Top 40 formats.

Jacinto says his current modified retro hits ("The Greatest and the Latest") format on RJ 100 is very successful. And incidentally, NU 107, the only modern-rock station in the city, has maintained a large fan base without changing formats since it started operating in 1987. Proof is the rabid audience response to its annual rock awards.

In other words, listeners will always have their own different preferences and hardly anyone can claim there's a dominant "favorite radio station" at present.

One good thing that's come out of the competition is that all the stations are now playing more Original Pilipino Music (OPM). Just recently, Barangay LS featured seven local artists within the same hour—far exceeding the old KBP requirement of four OPM songs per hour. Cheers!

WRR's Martin D, right, and Billie go on board from 8 to 10 a.m.

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# Hunks and beauty tilts are an awkward mix

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

SHOW BIZ HUNKS SHOULDN'T host beauty pageants.

That thought came to mind as we watched the Miss Earth Philippines beauty tilt on TV last April 29. Hunks **Piolo Pascual** and **John Lloyd Cruz** were doing their darnedest to keep the show fairly humming along, but they were failing—big time.

What was the problem?

After trying to figure it out, we concluded that, aside from their lack of experience at beauty tilt hosting, Piolo and John Lloyd were also burdened by their very identity as stellar hunks.

Basically, beauty contests are about the girls. On the other hand, celebrity hunks are about themselves—and that's where the problem was.

Even as they tried to focus on showcasing the beauty pageant's candidates, Piolo and John Lloyd instinctively wore their stardom like a cape or trophy, so they continued to strut their stellar stuff even if it was irrelevant to, and even distracted from, their hosting assignment.

That's the conundrum: Piolo and John Lloyd were tapped to host the pageant *because* of their star status, which added to the event's viewer appeal. Confoundingly, however, the mere fact that they were stellar hunks also robbed the pageant of its proper focus.

Even more sadly, without their intending to, the hunk-hosts came off as too smug and self-absorbed for the special tasks at hand.

This must be why, in the course of beauty tilts here, most pageant hosts have been non-stars and non-hunks. For instance, Paolo Bediones started hosting beauty tilts even before his TV career really took off. And other hosts like Eddie Mercado were primarily emcees, not stars.

With the advent of hunk-hosts like Piolo and John Lloyd, the carefully calibrated focus of beauty tilts has been thrown out of kilter, and everyone loses out.

Sadly, some of the biggest losers are the stellar hunks themselves. Hosting the Ms Earth Philippines tilt, Piolo and John Lloyd looked nervous, too *ma-porma* for comfort, and couldn't fully focus on the contestants (because stars are trained to focus more on themselves).

The spiels in English were also sometimes a problem, but the major difficulty was the tilt trying to have its cake and eat it, too. In the future, please realize that the stars in beauty pageants are the lovely contestants themselves, so stellar hunk-hosts provide a big distraction that shouldn't be countenanced.

## Feeback

From Richard R. Lotilla of Makati City: "I am interested in building up my collection of the best Filipino films, not just for my family but also for my students. But it's hard to track them down, and I hear that many of them are no longer in good condition. How can I get hold of whatever is still available?"

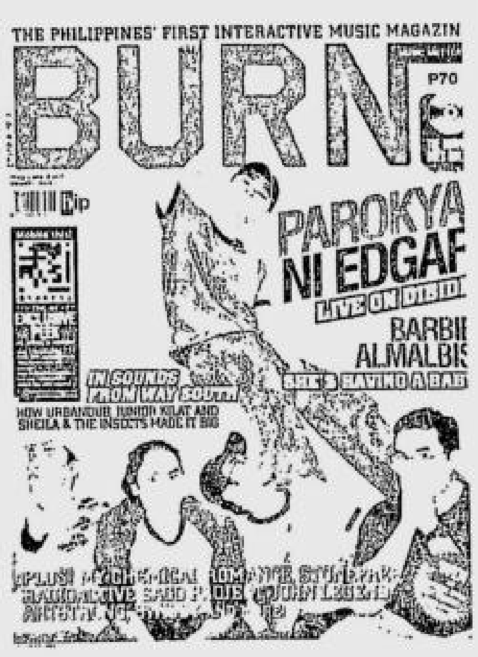
NUT: Some repositories of Filipino film classics are the major universities offering film courses, the CCP, the Mowelfund Film Institute, and some of the old movie studios.

For instance, Sampaguita Pictures may no longer be producing movies, but it has a film archive with more than 200 titles.

Finally, some of our film-buff friends who frequent video stores say that if you're willing to devote hours to looking at hundreds upon hundreds of old films on disc, a few gems can be happily discovered. It's worth a try, they urge.

## 'The Messenger' on video

Danny and Oxide Pang's exciting thriller, "The Messenger," is now out on video. It's about a Chicago family that opts for a quiet life on a North Dakota farm, only to discover how terrifying seclusion can be.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BARBIE ALMALBIS
SHE'S HAVING A BABY
IN SOUNDS FROM WAY SOUTH
HOW URBANDUB, JUNIOR KILAT AND SHEILA & THE INSECTS MADE IT BIG

**BURN—HOT!** BURN Magazine's May-June issue has the lovely, preggy Barbie Almalbis and topnotch novelty band Parokya Ni Edgar on the cover. Inside, it also features R&B Grammy winner John Legend, the rock group My Chemical Romance, OPM newbie Swissy, bassist Rommel Dela Cruz and hot, hot bands Stonefree and Radioactive Sago Project.

METRO
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Our City of Affections and Disaffections is made up of stories. Your stories. Tell us all about it...

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- Garbage dumped on your street unmake your day?
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- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

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SPIDERMAN 3
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4:20 / 4:40 / 4:55 / 5:30 / 5:50 / 6:25 / 7:00 / 7:15 / 7:35
7:50 / 8:25 / 8:45 / 9:20 / 9:55 / 10:10 / 10:30

SPIDERMAN 3
2:15 / 3:10 / 6:05 / 9:00

Ali MALL 5

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDERMAN 3<br>12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00 | 2 | SPIDERMAN 3<br>1:05 / 3:35 / 6:05 / 8:35 | 3 | SPIDERMAN 3<br>1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10 |
| 4 | ANG CUTE NG INA MO<br>12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30 | 5 | SHOOTER<br>12:35 / 3:10 / 5:45 / 8:20 | | DOLBY DIGITAL DTS SDDS |

For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com

PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE
MAY 9 Wednesday
4:35 - Air 21 vs. Coca-Cola 7:20 - Sta Lucia vs. Red Bull

PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE
MAY 13, 2007 Sunday
4:05 - Coca-Cola vs. Alaska 6:20 - Purefoods vs. Ginebra

glorietta Greenbelt Alabang Town Center Ayala Center Cebu Market! Market! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS
THX
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| | | | | |
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| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 4 ANG CUTE NG INA MO |
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 3 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| | 4 PERFECT STRANGERS | 5 WILD HOGS | 6 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 7 SPIDER-MAN 3 |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | | |
| | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | | |
| | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 4 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 5 SPIDER-MAN 3 | |
| ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 4 SHOOTER |
| M2 MARKET! MARKET! | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | | |
| | 3 ANG CUTE NG INA MO | 4 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 5 SPIDER-MAN 3 | |

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
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Greenbelt - 757 4853, from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

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|---|---|
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| AYALA CENTER CEBU | MARKET! MARKET! |
| Bazaar at level 1 (near Activity Center)<br>April 1 to 30, 2007 | The Maestro Series by Ryan Cayabyab<br>April 30, 2007 |

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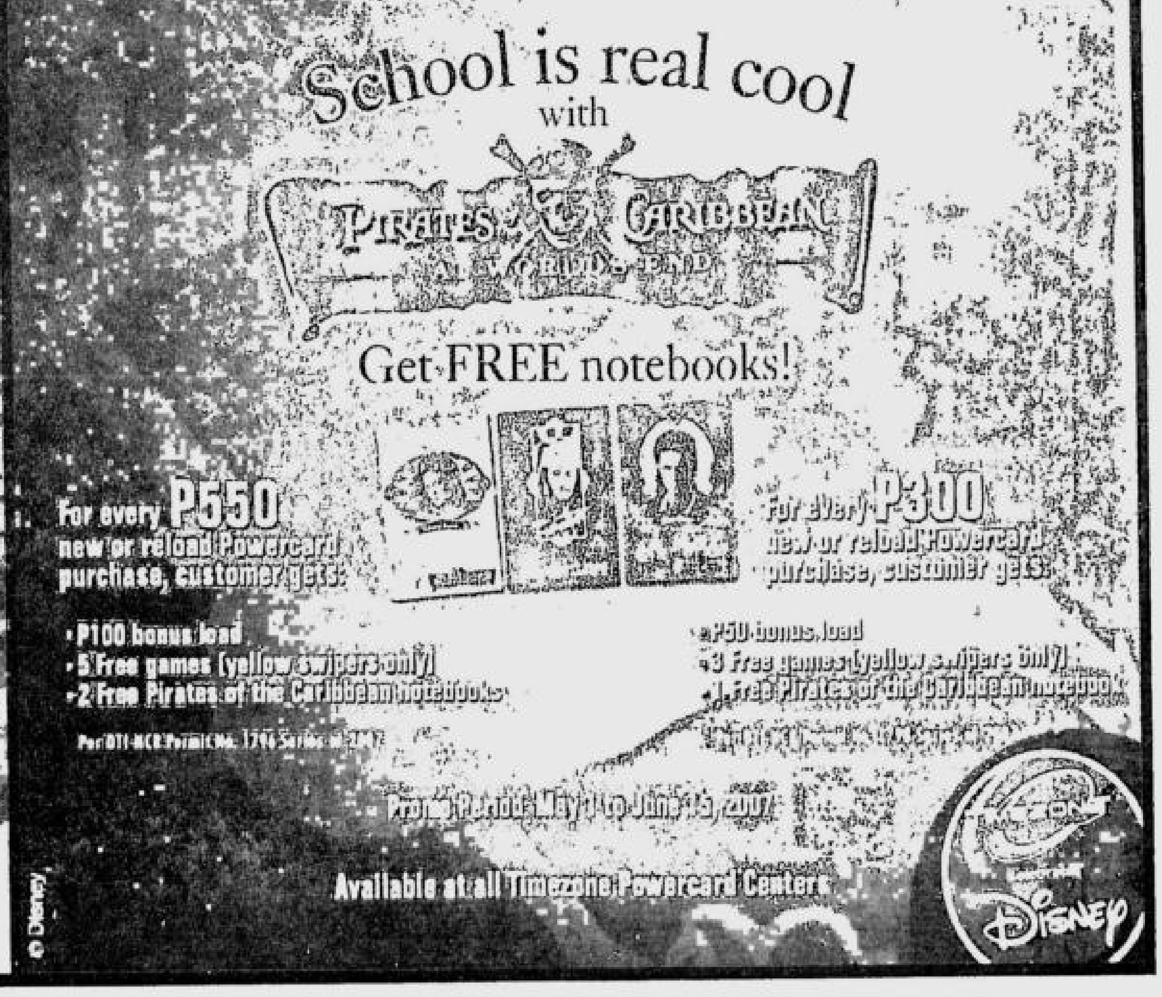
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2 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
4 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3

**Masagana CINEMA**
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 THE SHOOTER

**Center Mall Cinema**
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue
(Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2

**CINEMA 2000**
**Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati**
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

**Centre Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLE
2 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

**EASTWOOD CINEMAS**
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tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
2 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
4 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3

**starmall**
EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SPIDER-MAN 3
5 RESRVED

**metropolis star cinema**
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(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433994
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

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Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4

**THEATRES**
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
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2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

**PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC**
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-6271
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 RESRVED
4 RESRVED

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
3 SPIDER-MAN 3

**Cinema 2000 Metrotown**
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 SPIDER-MAN-3
4 SPIDER-MAN-3

**Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA**
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 THE SHOOTER
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
7 SPIDER-MAN 3
8 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 SPIDER-MAN 3

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
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2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3

**Lianas Cinema**
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
2 PLEASE CALL

**Blue Wave**
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
2 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 OBSESSION
3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
4 KARELASYON

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 NAKED LIES
3 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
5 SPIDER-MAN-3

**SUPER CINERAMA**
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 THE SHOOTER

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4 SPIDER-MAN-3

**THE MARKETPLACE**
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4 SATANICA

**Berma Cinema**
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
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2 SPIDER-MAN 3

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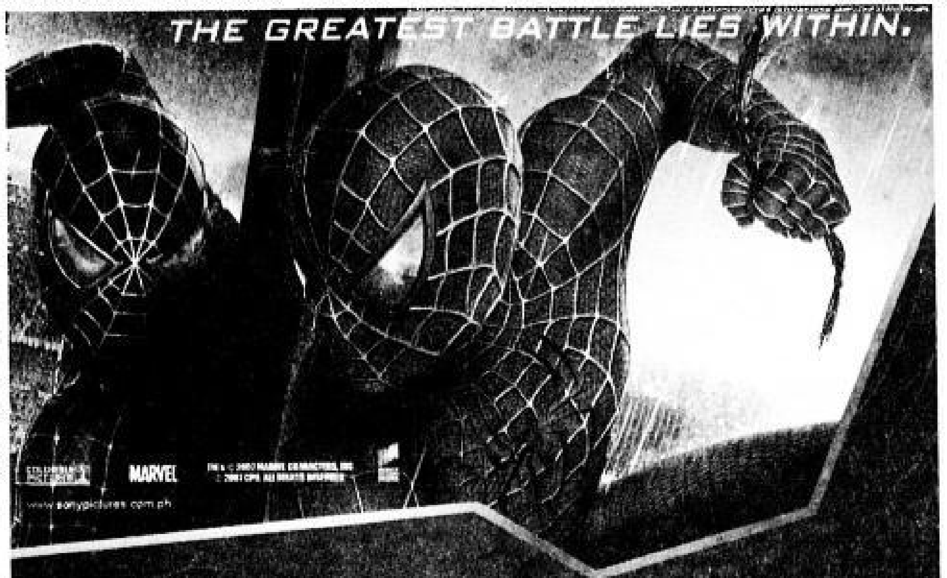
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7:30PM 10:30PM
Admission Fee- P350

1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 SPIDERMAN 3

PREMIERE CINEMA
SPIDERMAN 3
CENTERSTAGE
SPIDERMAN 3

THE PODIUM CINEMA
CINEMA 1
SPIDERMAN 3
CINEMA 2
SPIDERMAN 3
633-8976

**SM NORTH EDSA** 929-5452
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
6 SPIDERMAN 3/ FIREHOUSE DOG
7 SPIDERMAN 3
8 PAN'S LABYRINTH/ SPIDERMAN 3
9 SPIDERMAN 3/ PERFECT STRANGER
10 THE SHOOTER/ SPIDERMAN 3
11 SPIDERMAN 3/ GRAY MATTERS
12 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM MEGACINEMA** 633-1901
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 SPIDERMAN 3
7 SPIDERMAN 3
8 PAN'S LABYRINTH
9 SPIDERMAN 3
10 SPIDERMAN 3
11 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
12 THE SHOOTER

**SM CITY FAIRVIEW** 935-0749
1 THE SHOOTER
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 WILD HOGS
7 SPIDERMAN 3
8 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
9 SPIDERMAN 3
10 SPIDERMAN 3
11 SPIDERMAN 3
12 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM CITY STA. MESA** 716-1416
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
7 SPIDERMAN 3
8 SPIDERMAN 3
9 PAN'S LABYRINTH
10 THE SHOOTER

**SM CITY SAN LAZARO** 786-2488
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM SOUTHMALL** 806-6888
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 SPIDERMAN 3
7 PAN'S LABYRINTH
8 THE SHOOTER
9 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

**SM CITY BICUTAN** 776-3055
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM CITY MANILA** 523-9240
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 SPIDERMAN 3
7 SPIDERMAN 3
8 SPIDERMAN 3
9 SPIDERMAN 3
10 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
11 PAN'S LABYRINTH
12 THE SHOOTER

**SM CITY DASMARINAS** (046)4323201-04
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM VALENZUELA** 293-3917
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM CITY SUCAT** 829-4975
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

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2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 SPIDERMAN 3
7 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
8 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM CITY CLARK** (045)625-5844-45
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM CITY MARILAO** (044)9332013-17
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM CITY BATANGAS** 885-6401-04
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

**SM CITY PAMPANGA** (045)9637681-85
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
6 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM CIY LIPA** (043) 784-0187
1 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM CITY LUCENA** (042)7108977-80
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

**SM CITY BAGUIO** (074)6197838-39
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO** (046)474-3160
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM CITY STA. ROSA** (049)5340811
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3/ ANG CUTE NG INA MO
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3

## VISAYAS MINDANAO

**SM CITY DAVAO** (082)2976998
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM CITY CAGAYAN** (088)859-2884
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3/ ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4 SPIDERMAN 3

**SM CITY ILOILO** (033)3209422
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 SPIDERMAN 3
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 SPIDERMAN 3
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**SM CITY CEBU** (032)231-3876
1 SPIDERMAN 3
2 SPIDERMAN 3
3 SPIDERMAN 3
4 THE SHOOTER
5 SPIDERMAN 3
6 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
7 SPIDERMAN 3
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*FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MOVIE LISTING, MTRCB RATING, SCREENING SCHEDULES AND THE LATEST HAPPENINGS AT SM CINEMA

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ROBIN Williams dances with presenter Bonnie Hunt during the Film Society Awards at the 50th San Francisco Int'l Film Festival last week. Williams, who says he's been alcohol-free for 10 months, won the Peter J. Owens award, given to an artist "whose work exemplifies brilliance, independence and integrity." REUTERS

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**EASTWOOD CINEMAS**
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

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1 SPIDER-MAN 3
1:50, 4:40, 7:50, 10:50
G

2 SPIDER-MAN 3
2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20
G

3 SPIDER-MAN 3
12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40
G

4 SPIDER-MAN 3
12:00, 2:50, 5:50, 8:50
G

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**POWER PLANT CINEMA**
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>12:40,3:40,6:40,9:40 | SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>12:10,3:10 | SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10 |
| SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>2:40,5:40,8:40 | FIREHOUSE DOG<br>G<br>2:10,5:10,8:10 | SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>1:40,4:40,7:40,10:40 |

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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**SHANG CINEPLEX**

① SPIDER-MAN 3
MTRCB GP
1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00

② SPIDER-MAN 3
MTRCB GP
2:00, 5:00, 8:00

③ SPIDER-MAN 3
MTRCB GP
12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00

④ SPIDER-MAN 3
MTRCB GP
2:30, 5:30, 8:30

PREMIERE THEATRE
SPIDER-MAN 3 (GP)
12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30

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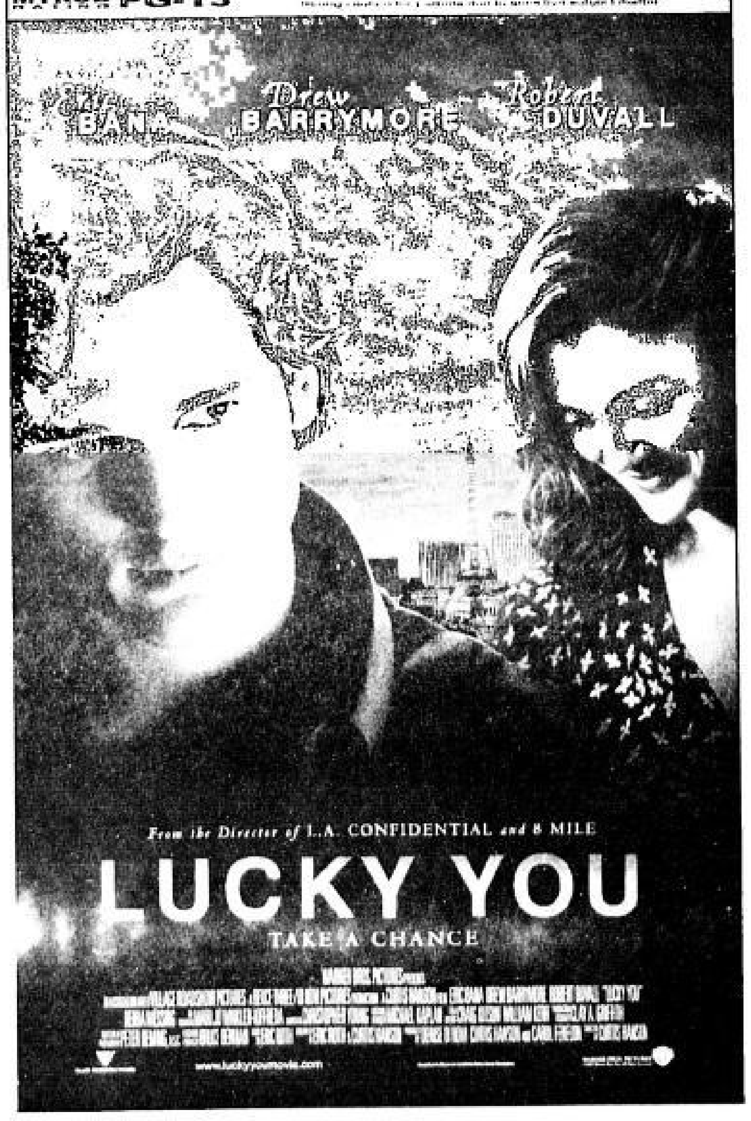


# ROUNDUP

## 'Dokyu' rules

"DOKYU," A SHOW FOR STUDENT filmmakers, announces the entry rules for its documentary competition as it premieres this month on ABC 5.

The films/documentaries must have been produced between June 2003 and the present by a student enrolled at the time the production was made.

Entries must be in DVD or VCD format, accompanied by an accomplished entry form, and should not have been aired on national television.

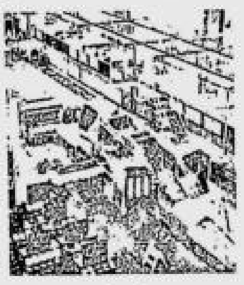
Entry forms may be secured from ABC 5, or downloaded from http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/DOKYU-submitted personally or by mail to 762 ABC 5 Quirino Highway Novaliches Quezon City.

Call 926-3551 or 937-7916.

## 'FBI Stakeout'

FBI special agents, who should pass several qualifying tests before they could carry weapons, spend hours training in an undisclosed firing range.

The National Geographic Channel was granted permission to film FBI special agents assigned to the Crow and Northern Cheyenne Nations. The result is "Inside: FBI Stakeout," which premieres tonight at 10. Replays tomorrow, 2 a.m.; May 14, 4 p.m.; May 30, 7 p.m.



## Aircraft factory

An AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopter, perhaps the most lethal attack helicopter in the world, waits for its canopy glass to be installed at a production line inside the Boeing/McDonnell Douglas plant in Mesa, Arizona.

In "Mega Factories: Apache Helicopters," National Geographic Channel takes viewers inside the Apache production facility to see how this battle tank of the air is built to take multiple hits as well as evade enemy radar and heat-seeking missiles.

The first of the five-part series airs on May 10 at 3 p.m.

## Presley party

The Elvis Presley Friendship Club Philippines, International, the only Filipino club accredited by Graceland, USA, is celebrating its seventh anniversary on May 27 with a whole day "Elvis Sing-alike, Look-alike" party, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Quattro Music Lounge in 96 Timog Ave, Quezon City.

The club has also produced a commemorative compact disc on the 30th death anniversary of Elvis this year.

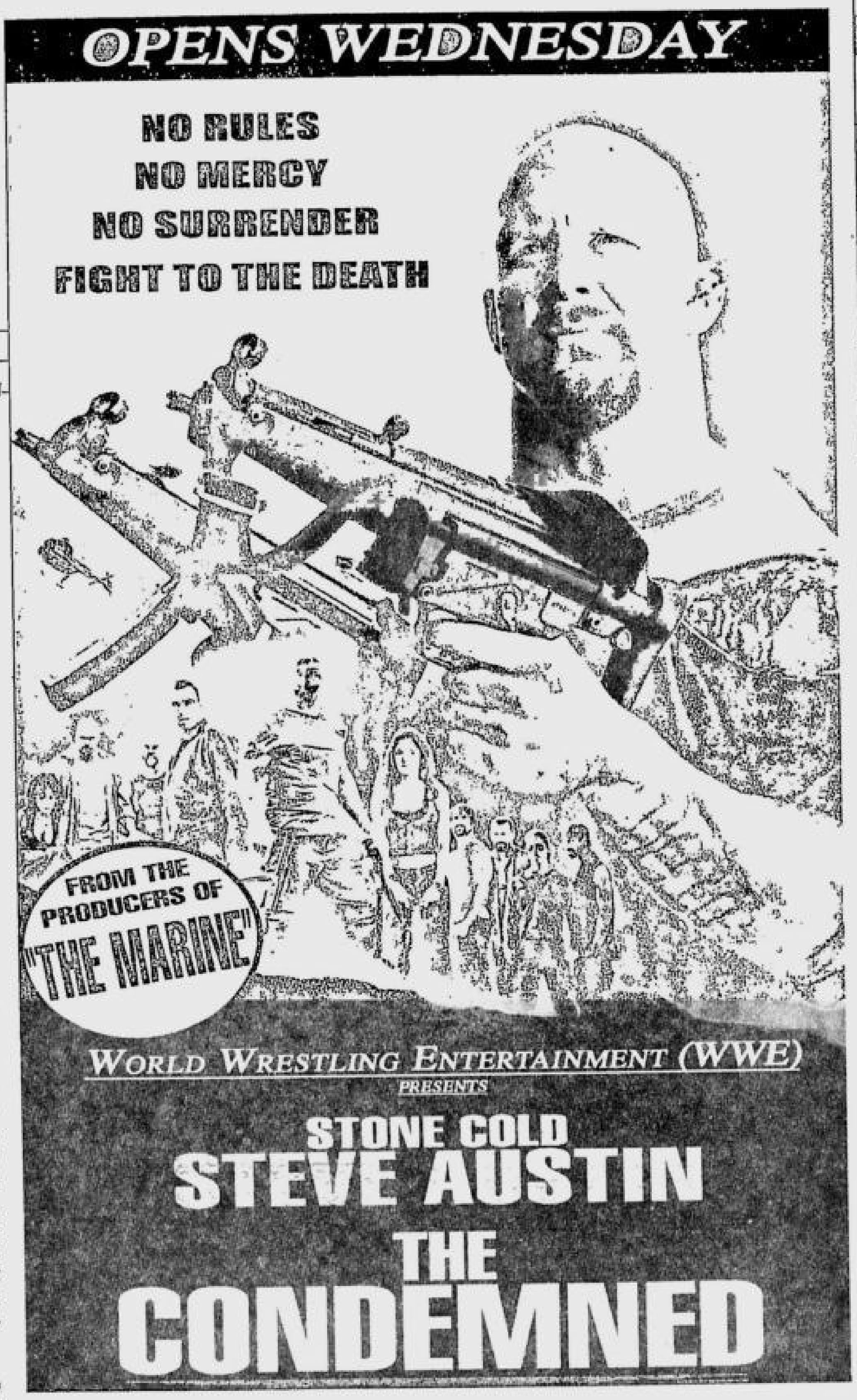
The disc is available at P250 per copy at the Manila Seeding Bank Environment Center Office in Quezon Ave. corner EDSA, Quezon City.

## Tribute to mothers

GMA Network's late morning talk-variety show "Sis" celebrates Mother's Day with a series of five special episodes.

Today, former beauty queens and their daughters share their unique stories.

The daughters narrate what it's like having a beauty queen for a mother, while the moms discuss how they keep the grace of a beauty queen while fulfilling their parental responsibilities.



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2 SPIDER-MAN 3
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3 SPIDER-MAN 3
10:55 1:45 4:35 7:25 10:15
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
6 SPIDER-MAN 3
1:00 3:50 6:40 9:30
7 PAN'S LABYRINTH
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
8 indieSine: NUMBALIKDIWA
1:00 3:30 4:50 6:40 8:30
9 PERFECT STRANGER
12:60 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50F
10 SPIDER-MAN 3
12:00 2:50 5:40 8:30

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7:30 10:00
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
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7 SPIDER-MAN 3
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7 SPIDER-MAN 3
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8 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
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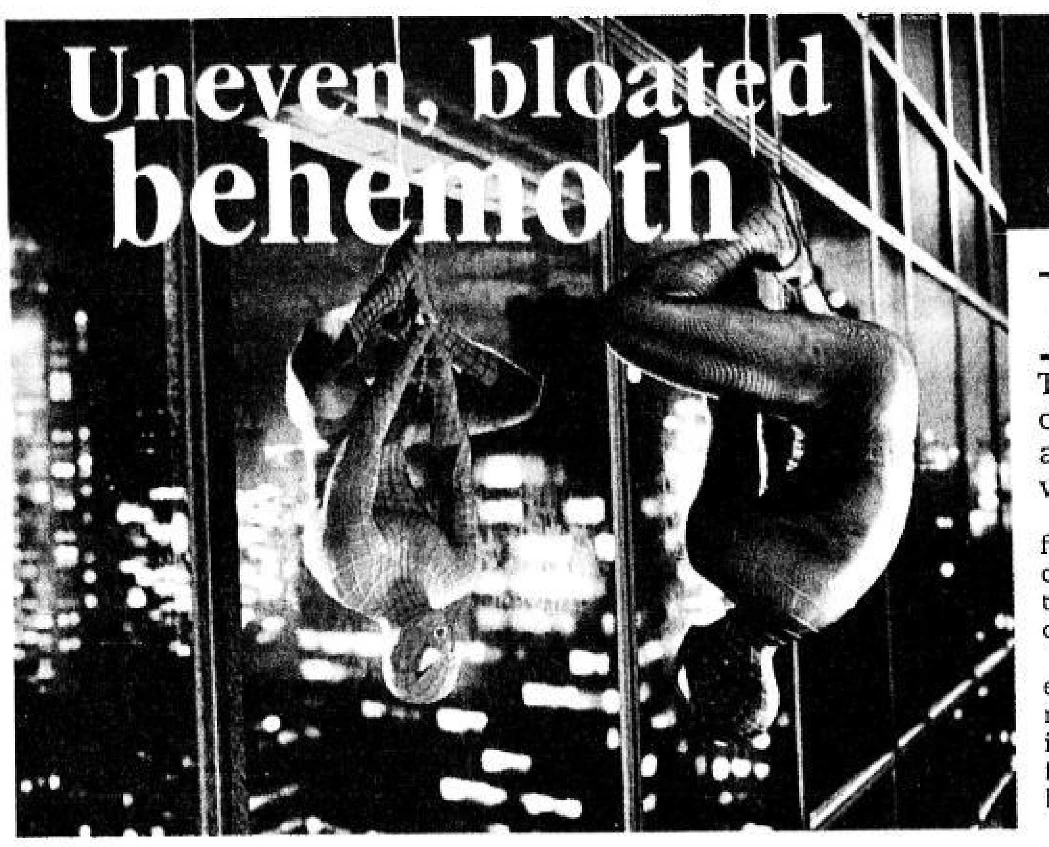
# Uneven, bloated behemoth



## 'Spider-Man 3' spins an overlong and convoluted web

LOS ANGELES—FORGIVEness is on the minds of many characters in "Spider-Man 3." They ponder if they are capable of offering it, worthy of receiving it—and whether, as the saying goes, it will ultimately prove divine.

In that spirit, audiences may also need to forgive director and co-writer Sam Raimi for creating a bloated, uneven behemoth with his third installment in the hugely successful comic-book franchise.

(The film is so feverishly anticipated, however, and the entire series is so revered, that any critic's opinion is irrelevant to the inevitable box office bonanza. Nevertheless, let's press on.)

**REVIEW**

Spidey the Third feels like an even greater letdown following Spidey Part Deux, which was the rare sequel that surpassed the original. "Spider-Man 2" was driven by a strong story and compelling character development, and did not just feel the need to dazzle us with elaborate effects (though the effects did indeed dazzle).

Here, Raimi overloads us with more—more villains, more supporting characters and more plot lines—spread out across more time. People and threats come and go, and the narrative feels scattered. (Raimi crafted it with his older brother, Ivan, and veteran writer Alvin Sargent, who also co-wrote part two.)

### Dark urges

Peter Parker (Tobey Maguire) must battle human foes Flint Marko (Thomas Haden Church) and Eddie Brock (Topher Grace) but also their alter egos, the Sandman and Venom. He is still at odds with old best pal Harry (James Franco) as well as Harry's souped-up super self, the New Goblin. And Peter, as Spider-Man, must fight his own dark urges when a pesky black goop from outer space attaches itself onto him of all people—what are the odds? It spreads across his body in place of his trademark red-and-blue suit, bringing out prideful, arrogant tendencies he never knew he had.

It is amusing, however, that even as dark Spidey, Peter's nerdy nature still shines sweetly through. His idea of being bad consists of displaying Denny Terrio-style disco dance moves while swaggering down the sidewalks of New York, and demanding milk and cookies from the adoring girl who lives next door. (As he turns crueler, though, he also revels in humiliating Brock, a cocky, competing photographer at the Daily Bugle. By now, Grace has got that persona down.)

### Juggling romance

Peter's also juggling two love interests: Mary Jane Watson (Kirsten Dunst), the longtime girl of his dreams who now knows he's Spider-Man and is cool with it; and Gwen Stacy (Bryce Dallas Howard, one of many new cast members), a college classmate with a crush on Peter who provides plenty of opportunities for Spidey to swoop to the rescue. Mary Jane is relegated to whining nearly the entire time about her botched Broadway debut; Gwen is an attractive, blonde prop. The way he treats both of them provides one of many opportunities for remorse.

So yes, there is too much going on in this $258 million extravaganza. But when you spend that much money making a film, theoretically you are going to offer some spectacular visuals. "Spider Man 3" does—sometimes.

The opening sequence, with Goblin chasing Spidey through the skyscrapers and alleyways of Manhattan at night, looks too fake and cartoony, like something out of a video game. Other moments are eye-popping—notably, when escaped prisoner Flint Marko falls in the middle of a scientific test site and finds himself molecularly deconstructed and reborn as a mass of sand (the filmmakers actually used ground corncob, which looks vividly tactile).

### Sandman baffles

The rules as to what Sandman can and cannot do are still sort of baffling—Spider-Man can punch a hole through Sandman, but Sandman can turn himself into a wind-whipped storm and carry away large objects. Perhaps some of you fanboys out there, who surely will go out of your way to eviscerate any critic who dares trash your beloved movie, could be kind enough to share some enlightenment.

Church's blue-eyed, chiseled looks made him the ultimate carefree party boy in "Sideways." They make him equally believable here as a troubled but fundamentally decent guy who has done some bad things—and, of course, seeks forgiveness.

Peter, too, must deliver some mea culpas for his egregious behavior, and find a way to accept them from others for past transgressions that return to the fore. By the time "Spider-Man 3" ends, countless tears have been shed, story lines have wrapped up and minutes have dragged by—and the potential for "Spider-Man 4" has been clearly established.

It all could end right here, though, and it should—as a trilogy, one that is not necessarily satisfying, but at least provides a sense that the web has been neatly completed. *Christy Lemire, AP*

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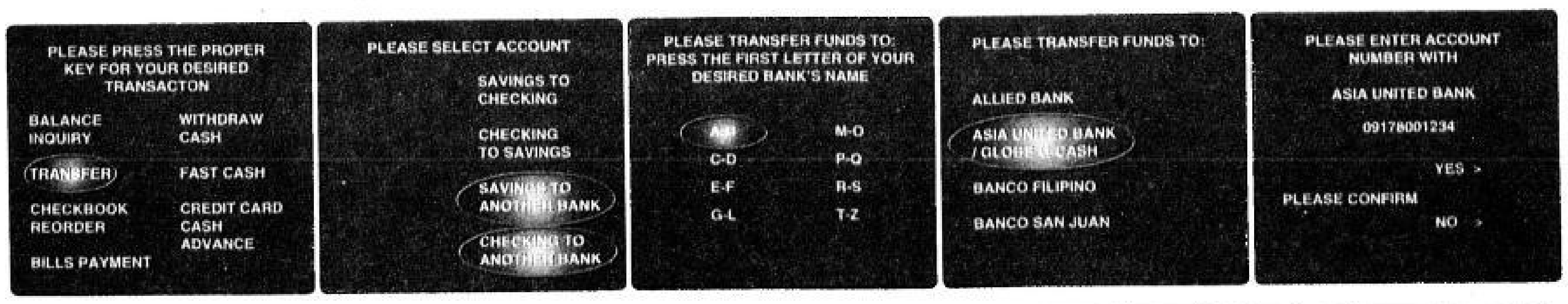

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**NEWS** / A8

**KL trader, 3 RP execs** arrested in Jakarta over $90-M scam

**ACROSS** / A14

**Abra's biggest** private army traced to gov

**SPORTS** / A23

**Tiger Woods rides** 60-foot eagle to latest crown

**SPORTS** / A24

**Spurs, Cavs** win semifinal NBA openers

**WORLD** / A20

**World Bank** seen firing Wolfowitz

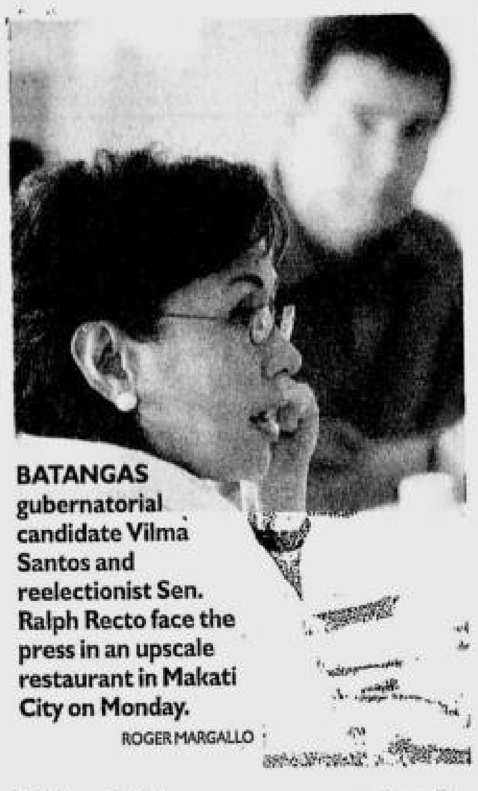
PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, May 8, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 149 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

### 'Go-slow' approach favored to address global warming

WHILE THREE OUT OF EVERY FOUR FILIPINOS say that global warming should be addressed, most believe this should be done gradually, according to results of a survey by Social Weather Stations.

SWS conducted the survey from Sept. 24 to Oct. 2 last year in cooperation with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and WorldPublicOpinion.org.

'GO-SLOW'/ A8



**BATANGAS** gubernatorial candidate Vilma Santos and reelectionist Sen. Ralph Recto face the press in an upscale restaurant in Makati City on Monday.
ROGER MARGALLO

## Why Vilma succeeded, Nora failed in politics

By Emmie G. Velarde
*Entertainment Editor*

IMAGINE A QUESTION THAT STILL GIVES pause to Vilma Santos—mayor of Lipa City, candidate for governor of Batangas, and show biz's "Star for All Seasons," among other callings.

This one did yesterday, during *merienda* with a handful of women journalists: "What are

WHY VILMA/ A13

## New French president vows sweeping reforms

PARIS—CONSERVATIVE NICOLAS Sarkozy triumphed in France's presidential election on Sunday, sweeping aside his Socialist rival and winning a strong mandate for his radical reforms: He wants to free up labor markets, calls the 35-hour workweek absurd and plans tougher measures on crime and immigration.

"The people of France have chosen change," Sarkozy told cheering supporters in a victory speech that sketched a stronger global role for France and renewed partnership with the United States.

Sarkozy won 53.1 percent of the ballot against 46.9 percent for Socialist Segolene Royal, with voters signing up to his vision of a hardworking France and turning a deaf ear to leftist accusations he would prove a divisive, dangerous and abrasive leader.

Sporadic violence flared in a number of French cities after Sarkozy's emphatic victory was flashed on television screens. But a conciliatory Sarkozy immediately reached out to his beaten foes, promising to be president of the entire nation.

"Those who have been broken, those who have been worn down by life, must know they have not been abandoned, that they will be helped, they will be rescued," he told cheering supporters.

Turnout was almost 84 percent, the highest since 1988, giving Sarkozy's victory a strong legitimacy and extending the Right's 12-year grip on power after two successive terms by President Jacques Chirac, who is retiring.

But Sarkozy, the son of a Hun-

NEW FRENCH/ A6

**A TRIUMPHANT** Nicolas Sarkozy celebrates his victory over Segolene Royal as France's new president in Paris on Sunday. Royal expressed disappointment but immediately conceded defeat.
REUTERS

# Binay squeezes GMA bets

## Mayor says President is his campaign manager

By DJ Yap

A DAY AFTER MALACAÑANG retreated from its efforts to unseat him, an indignant Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay rode the wave of public sympathy and called on voters to spurn administration candidates on May 14.

"This coming elections will be a referendum. Let us not vote for the candidates of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo," Binay said yesterday to cheers from a crowd of 1,000, mostly city employees.

ELEKSYON 2007

"From the unfolding of events, it looks like this will be the start of a new government," he told his supporters at the flag-raising ceremony at the City Hall quadrangle.

The mayor cited the perceived backlash to the Arroyo administration's attempt to suspend him on Friday night and the freezing of the city government's assets two days before.

Both moves elicited negative reactions even from Ms Arroyo's allies, prompting the administration to defer Binay's suspension until after the elections and to lift the garnishment order on all but one of the city's bank accounts.

Administration senatorial candidates of Team Unity had assailed the suspension of Binay as ill-timed, saying that it could boomerang on them on Election Day.

BINAY/ A6

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

**ABIGAIL** Binay (left), daughter of Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay (center), and actress Susan Roces meet the press at the residence of Armida Siguion-Reyna in Forbes Park on Monday. Abigail is running for a congressional seat in the second district of Makati.

## Senatorial bet Victor Wood hits commercialization of elections

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SINGER VICTOR WOOD AND OTHER lesser known senatorial candidates may have stood out like sore thumbs among their more popular rivals in a prime time television forum but they hit the nail right on the head when they decried the commercialization of the May 14 elections.

In the second part of GMA Network's stylized "Isang Tanong" political affairs show, Wood stole the limelight when he said that with the huge bills being run up by deep-pocketed candidates to boost their senatorial bid, only the major networks were making a killing in the elections.

"I feel sad about the widespread hunger in the country. I have been abroad many times and I always say to myself why can't the Philippines be like them (affluent countries). So what's the reason? Our elections. Don't be angry at me, Channel 7 and Channel 2. Sorry, but it's not your choice. That is where most of the money is going to," Wood said in disjointed Filipino.

The bulk of the billions spent on political advertising was cornered by the coun-

SENATORIAL/ A8

## Gatchalian's 4 sons have virtual lock on Valenzuela

By Nancy C. Carvajal

IN WHAT COULD BE A FIRST IN POLITICS in the Philippines, if not anywhere else, four brothers are aspiring for four powerful positions in the tiny city of Valenzuela.

They are the sons of Chinese-Filipino businessman and "Plastics King" William Gatchalian and their victories in the May 14 polls would give the clan a monopoly of all the top elective positions in a city of half a million people and roughly one-fourth the size of Quezon City (166 sq. km).

Three of them would be congressmen. The fourth—Sherwin, 36, and the oldest son—is running for reelection as city mayor.

Commission on Elections records show that Kenneth, 32, is a nominee of the party-list group Anak, brother Rexlon, 28, is running for congressman in the city's 1st district, while Weslie, 26, is vying for a House seat in the 2nd district.

The four brothers are running under the Nationalist People's Coalition, a divided party, one half of which supports President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Sherwin and Rex are considered political "veterans," having entered politics ahead of their brothers.

GATCHALIAN'S/ A6

MISSING
Jonas Joseph Burgos
Description

**BURGOS SON STILL MISSING**
Relatives and friends of missing activist Jonas Burgos hold a protest rally in front of Camp Crame in Quezon City on Monday. It has been nine days since armed men abducted the son of the late freedom fighter Jose Burgos Jr. in a mall in Quezon City.
JOAN BONDOC

## Filipino workers recount nightmare in Nigeria

By Tarra Quismundo

THE SOUND OF GUNFIRE ROUSED the Filipinos from sleep at the staff campsite of a Korean-run power plant in oil-rich Port Harcourt in Nigeria, but it was the chant of male voices that sent a chill up their spines.

"When I heard them sing their victory song, I was scared because it meant that they had already entered (the camp)," said Aldren Blen, 26, recalling the rebel hymn that they had been warned about.

"It was in a different language. It meant that their operation was a success," said Jhojie Bagayas, an electrician from Makati City.

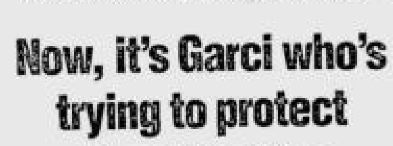
Blen and Bagayas escaped the rebel assault and were among 27 Filipinos who returned to Manila yesterday under the Philippine government's emergency repatriation of 45 Filipinos from Port Harcourt.

Eight compatriots and three Koreans were seized from the camp on Thursday.

At least 17 more Filipinos were expected to come home today from Nigeria, said Foreign Undersecretary Esteban Conejos Jr. The two-phase repatriation was pursued at the expense of the Korean firm, he said.

There were originally 81 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in the Korean

FILIPINO/ A8


KUNG ANO ANG HINALA SIYANG GAWA

## Now, it's Garci who's trying to protect his own votes

By Grace C. Albasin
*Inquirer Mindanao*

BAUNGON, BUKIDNON—HE WAS ONCE accused of manipulating the results of the 2004 presidential election in favor of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Now, former

NOW, IT'S/ A13

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**WEATHER FORECAST**

FORECAST: Luzon and Palawan will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

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| Metro Manila | Cloudy with Rains | Iloilo/Bacolod | Cloudy with Rains |
| Baguio | Cloudy with Rains | Roxas | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tuguegarao | Cloudy with Rains | Cebu | Cloudy with Rains |
| Laoag | Cloudy with Rains | Tacloban | Cloudy with Rains |
| Clark Zone | Cloudy with Rains | Gen. Santos | Cloudy with Rains |
| Tagaytay | Cloudy with Rains | Zamboanga | Cloudy with Rains |
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COMPILED BY: LAW DE GUZMAN, INQUIRER RESEARCH/05/07/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

# 219 foreign poll observers accredited

By Nikko Dizon

A TOTAL OF 219 FOREIGN OBSERVERS FROM 12 countries and seven international organizations who will assess the conduct of the May 14 midterm elections have been accredited by the Commission on Elections.

The US Embassy has the most number of observers with 86 accredited personnel, according to a list furnished to the media by the Comelec.

There were 26 observers from the Japanese Embassy, 11 from the British Embassy, 10 from the Canadian Embassy and one from the New Zealand Embassy.

The Comelec also issued accreditations to the embassies of Australia, Singapore, Sweden, Finland, Germany, France and Spain.

The international organizations accredited by the Comelec were: The Asia Foundation, ACF Compact, the European Commission, Friedrich Naumann, USAID Philippines, National Democratic Institute, and the International Foundation for Election Systems.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. told reporters yesterday that foreign observers could only "look and listen" during the elections and could not "interfere" in the Philippine electoral process.

"They cannot even go out and influence. They cannot enter polling precincts but they are allowed a certain distance," he said.

Abalos said the presence of foreign observers was important "so the whole world ... especially the democratic part of the world will know what kind of elections we have here ... that we really observe democracy."

He said the Comelec usually asked to see the reports written up by foreign observers. The poll body evaluates their recommendations and determines whether to apply them or not in the next elections.

According to the Comelec Resolution No. 7802 promulgated in January, on pre-election day, duly accredited foreign observers could request for interviews or briefings on the electoral exercise from candidates, political parties, media representatives and private firms or organizations.

They are also allowed to observe the continuing registration and voters' verification, as well as the election preparations by election officers.

On May 14, foreign observers can observe the conduct of the elections in any locality as well as interview voters, political leaders and other individuals outside the polling places, according to the Comelec.

They can document these using audio, visual or audio-visual recordings as long as these would not be done inside the polling places during voting hours.

After the election, the Comelec said the foreigners would be allowed to observe the counting of votes by the Board of Election Inspectors (BEIs) and the canvassing of votes conducted by the municipality, city, provincial, district and regional Board of Canvassers, as well as observe the canvassing proceedings by the Comelec acting as the National Board of Canvassers for senators.

However, the Comelec prohibits foreign observers from extending direct or indirect aid to any candidate or political party; taking part or influencing the election in any manner; contributing or make expenditure in connection with any election campaign or partisan political activity; entering any polling place during voting hours, and entering places reserved for voters or for the BEIs or to mingle and talk with voters inside the polling place.

Foreign observers who violate any of these provisions can be imprisoned from one to six years and deported after serving the prison term.

# Party-lists want metro troops out

By Leila B. Salaverria

LEFT-WING PARTY-LIST GROUPS yesterday asked the Supreme Court to order troops out of Metro Manila's urban poor communities, charging they were dissuading voters from picking leftist candidates in the May 14 elections.

"The deployment of soldiers is unconstitutional because it violates the principle of civilian supremacy and because military men can only be deployed by the President when there is lawless violence, invasion, rebellion or the threat thereof, " said Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, who led representatives of party-list groups Gabriela, Kabataan and Suara Bangsamoro in filing the petition with the high court.

The groups were joined by Payatas resident Roberto Corbes, who claimed he was threatened by soldiers for distributing membership registration forms for Bayan Muna.

"The militarization of Metro Manila is not just a threat to human rights," they said in their petition. "It is already injurious to the rights to association of political parties and a violation of the people's right to suffrage. Petitioners find it difficult to continue participating in electoral politics under this condition."

The groups said they had earlier filed a petition with the Commission on Elections questioning the presence of troops in urban communities but it remained unresolved.

This time, they asked the high tribunal to nullify the Armed Forces of the Philippines' order deploying troops to urban communities in the National Capital Region, direct their pullout, and compel the AFP to leave the communities in 24 hours.

Named respondents in the petition were: AFP chief of staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, AFP NCR Command head Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino and Lt. Roel Cotillon.

Military officials earlier denied the controversial deployment of 260 troops in 26 urban poor communities in Manila, starting in November, was linked to the elections, saying the aim was to boost government services and combat the "culture of rebelling," including street protests.

"We do not target any people or any particular group," Dolorfino said.

Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro, the military's spokesman, said the Armed Forces would pull out before election day.

In seeking the troops' withdrawal from the NCR, the party-list groups pointed to Dolorfino's reported statements that the soldiers will entice voters to vote for people who are God-fearing, who could give justice to the people and who are physically, morally and intellectually qualified.

In their petition, the groups said this statement violated the constitutional provision prohibiting the AFP from participating in partisan politics.

"Whether a candidate is God-fearing or not is beyond the business of the AFP. It is beyond the competence of respondents to draft and advertise its criteria of who are or are not qualified civilian leaders. This kind of thinking or belief is anathema to democracy because it predisposes the troops to obey, respect and follow only civilian leaders anointed by the powers-that-be in the Armed Forces of the Philippines—whether or not the leader is god-fearing," they said.

*With an AP report*

# 'Junking' allies will earn Palace ire, say TU bets

By Michael Lim Ubac

MALACAÑANG HAS THREATENED TO PEnalize administration-allied local officials who junk any of the senatorial bets of Team Unity.

The marching orders are to strictly adhere to the 12-0 sample ballot campaign ... or else, reported several TU senatorial candidates who attended yesterday's party caucus with President Macapagal-Arroyo and local government officials belonging to the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, Governor's League and City Mayor's League of the Philippines.

Emerging from the meeting, candidates Michael Defensor, Luis "Chavit" Singson and Vic Magsaysay told reporters that coalition members would surely be meted out sanctions for noncompliance since sample ballots were crucial in tightly contested electoral battles.

"Sanctions? Maybe after the elections. We will know who will comply (or not)," said Singson, stressing that local officials and their supporters knew for sure that "if they will vote for the opposition, they won't get any projects."

TU political strategist Ben Evardone denied that the governors and mayors went to see the President to collect the final installment of the campaign funds promised by them.

Evardone said they discussed their strategy for the last leg of the election campaign, which is: All administration candidates in the local level will include only the 12 TU bets in their sample ballots.

"They are not even allowed to insert the names of (Genuine Opposition) candidates after the TU bets or put a sticker (of GO bets) on the sides of the sample ballots," said Evardone, stressing consolidation and party discipline for a 12-0 administration victory.

"Party discipline will make sure that not a single opposition candidate will be included in the sample ballots. It's really 12-0. We will not allow that ...," he said.

He said they were aware that some GO bets were "offering incentives" to governors, congressmen and mayors to be included in administration sample ballots.

Singson said TU bets would never do that. "They (GO) really do that, but we don't."

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# Former official confirms PCSO paid for gov't bets' ads in 2001

By Norman Bordadora

A FORMER BOARD SECRETARY OF THE Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office yesterday confirmed that PCSO funds were used to bankroll the media campaign of the People Power Coalition, the political party of President Macapagal-Arroyo's administration in the 2001 elections.

Lawyer Cirilo Avila also confirmed the authenticity of a tape recording that allegedly contained the proceedings of a PCSO board meeting in 2001. The tape had then PCSO chair Honey Girl Singson-de Leon supposedly discussing campaign spending with then general manager Virgilio Angeles.

"There were indeed ad placements for the People Power Coalition and these were paid for with PCSO funds meant for PCSO advertisements," Avila said in a news conference yesterday.

"This could be happening again in this election period," he added.

Avila said he would have been willing to present himself as a witness and attest to the authenticity of the tape before a Senate inquiry in October 2001. He said he had waited to be subpoenaed.

"But no subpoena came," he said.

The Senate inquiry on alleged government spending for the PPC senatorial candidates came following a privilege speech by Sen. Panfilo Lacson on the matter.

Avila as PCSO board secretary said he was the repository of the records of the agency's board meetings.

The alleged exchange between De Leon and Angeles on how the board could justify the PCSO expenditure for the PPC's media ads was caught on tape despite instructions from then PCSO chair to turn the recorder off while the matter was being discussed in the board meeting.

Then PCSO director Linggoy Alcuaz, now a member of the opposition, said he was also at the meeting when the matter of PCSO's campaign spending was discussed.

"This is not covered by the anti-wire tapping law and is admissible [as evidence] in court. The tape recorder was on the table; not under it. The persons present knew that they were being recorded," Alcuaz said.

Avila said he came out to corroborate Alcuaz's allegations the PCSO was used to fund partisan activities of the administration.

# Luisita workers lose wage battle

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE COURT OF APPEALS HAS DISMISSED the petition filed by Hacienda Luisita workers questioning the Department of Labor and Employment decision awarding them a wage increase and a signing bonus that the workers had deemed to be insufficient.

In affirming the DOLE decision, the court junked the contention of the Central Azucarera de Tarlac Labor Union (Catlu) that the labor department, then under Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, did not have jurisdiction over its strike stemming from its dispute with the Central Azucarera de Tarlac (CAT).

The court also said there was nothing wrong with the DOLE's decision to award the workers a P15 per day wage increase and a P12,500 signing bonus because the CAT could not afford to give a higher increase and bonus.

"In sum, public respondent did not act with grave abuse of discretion in assuming jurisdiction over the labor dispute and in determining the appropriate amounts of the wage increase and wage augmentation awarded to petitioner," it said in a decision penned on April 30.

The workers initially asked for a P100 per day increase and a P30,000 signing bonus but later lowered the amount to P75 per day and a P20,000 bonus.

The court noted that the DOLE, in determining the amount of the wage increase and bonus, took into account the financial state of the company.

It added that the company had lost money because of the dispute between Catlu and CAT arising from disagreements over their collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

The dispute between Catlu and CAT started when they reached a deadlock in CBA negotiations.

In November 2004, Catlu members staged a strike and put up a picket outside the CAT's gate. The number of workers involved grew as the days passed.

In January 2005, the DOLE issued a decision ordering the P15 wage increase and the P12,500 signing bonus.

# Judge picks appraiser of Naia 3

By Julie M. Aurelio

A PASAY CITY JUDGE HAS CHOSEN an independent Makati-based appraisal firm to help determine how much the government should pay in the expropriation of the mothballed Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

In an order released last week, Judge Jesus Mupas of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court named DG Jones & Partners as the firm that will determine what would constitute just compensation, and hopefully end over three years of recriminations between the government and Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco).

The judge chose from a shortlist of five appraisal firms submitted by Fiorello Estuar, chair of the Naia 3 Commission.

After receiving Estuar's recommendations, the judge interviewed the two prequalified firms on April 17.

Mupas eventually decided on DG Jones, which submitted the lower bid.

In 2004, the government filed a case for expropriation of Naia 3 with the Pasay court after the Supreme Court ruled that the construction contract was disadvantageous to the government.

The high tribunal ordered the government to pay Piatco $62.3 million (about P3 billion) as partial payment for the facility.

The government and Piatco eventually agreed to get a third party assessor to determine not only how much the consortium should be reimbursed, but to assess whether Naia 3 was built according to its specifications. *With a report by Hershey D. Homol*

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# Election-related deaths nearing 100 mark, cops report

By Alcuin Papa

WITH LESS THAN A WEEK TO GO BEFORE THE May 14 elections, the body count in violent poll-related incidents is closing in on the 100 mark.

According to the Philippine National Police, 95 people have died in 131 election-related violent incidents (ERVIs).

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said that of those killed, 40 were politicians or incumbents, 10 were candidates, 34 supporters and 11 bystanders.

During the 2004 elections, 148 people died in 249 ERVIs. In 2001, 111 people were killed in 269 incidents.

Pagdilao said PNP Director General Oscar Calderon had ordered the police to step up security in the final week of the campaign period.

"The Chief PNP has ordered all commanders to ensure that in the homestretch, the steps we have taken are implemented thoroughly and properly," Pagdilao said.

In particular, Pagdilao said, the police will pinpoint security threats and partisan armed groups and intensify the campaign against loose firearms through round-the-clock checkpoints.

He said police commanders will also meet with candidates in their areas of jurisdiction to ensure peaceful polls.

"There must be a personal gentlemanly approach here," he said.

Pagdilao said police officers will be reshuffled in the coming days, particularly in Regions 1, 3 and the Cordillera Administrative Region, as part of the PNP's campaign to make sure no officers could be accused of partisanship.

Pagdilao also asked the media to monitor election security, saying the presence of the press had a "soothing effect" in tense situations.

"Around the media, candidates and their followers are usually more behaved," he said.

The PNP has been designated the sole agency to provide security for the midterm elections, a job traditionally carried out by the military.

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## Trillanes joins forum from jail

ACCUSED MILITARY rebel and Genuine Opposition senatorial bet Antonio Trillanes IV yesterday became the first candidate under detention in the country to participate in a news forum via teleconferencing.

With the prospect of remaining behind bars even if he wins in the May 14 elections, Trillanes told reporters at the weekly Kapihan sa Manila Hotel that he intended to use the same technology to participate in debates, inquiries and other legislative processes in the Senate.

"I don't see any reason the four walls of my detention cell should affect my performance as a senator if I am fortunate to win a Senate seat," Trillanes said.

The teleconference may not have been as high-tech as available telecommunications technology would allow but it was a teleconference nonetheless.

INQUIRER columnist Neal Cruz, the news forum moderator, held a microphone to a mobile phone for all in the hotel function room to hear. He then asked Trillanes questions.

Trillanes said his physical presence was not a requisite for true public service.

He was allowed to be interviewed and to campaign via the media in April. He even managed to participate in a candidates' forum via teleconferencing over the ABS-CBN news channel.

*Norman Bordadora*

## Corrections

IN THE MAY 7 ISSUE, a frontpage story—"Granddaughter remembers Lolo Doroy"—misstated that Juan Labrador was a Thomasite priest. Labrador was a Dominican priest. The Thomasites were American public school teachers.

# Villar says spending within law

REELECTIONIST SEN. MANUEL VILLAR yesterday denied exceeding the campaign ad spending limit, but refused to reveal how much he had shelled out so far.

The mass housing magnate who has topped the list of richest senators the past years said he was spending his own "hard-earned money" anyway.

A new election watchdog called Pera't Pulitika had accused the Genuine Opposition guest candidate as well as administration Team Unity senatorial bet Prospero Pichay with having spent more than the law allows on campaign advertising.

Under the Election Code, a senatorial candidate may spend P3 for each voter. With an estimated 45 million voters, this comes to P135 million.

According to Pera't Pulitika, as of May 1, Pichay had spent P151.7 million for ads while Villar had spent P138.2 million.

"This sweeping accusation concerning the financial aspect of my campaign is simply baseless," Villar said. "I am keeping track of my campaign expenditures and I am certain these are well within the extent allowed by law."

"Furthermore, it must be emphasized that I am spending my own hard-earned money for this campaign," he said.

*Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

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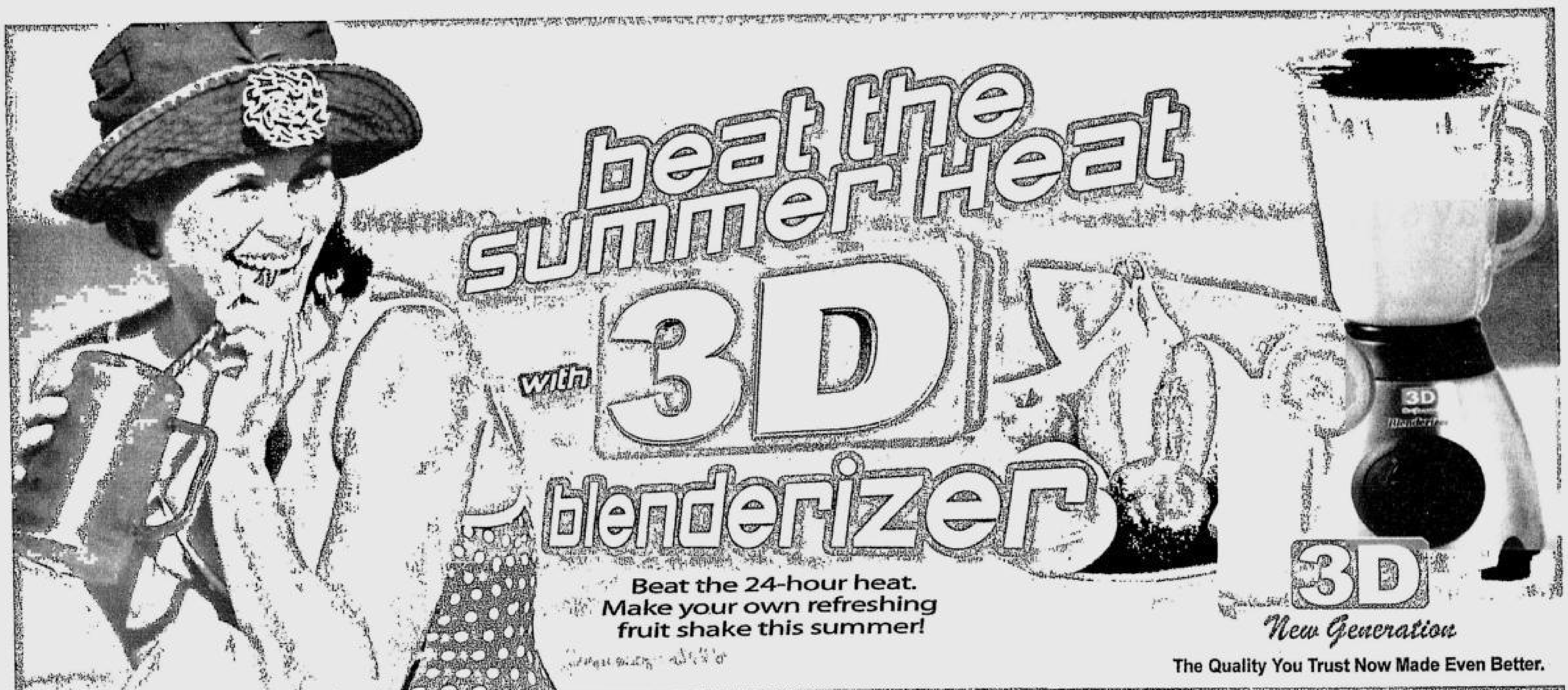

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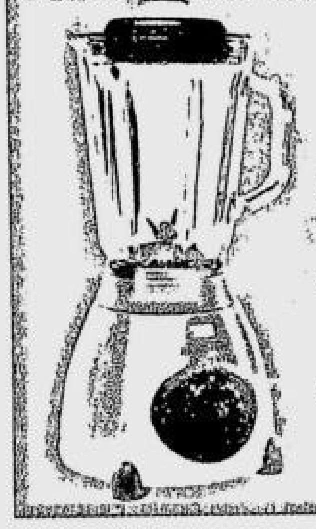

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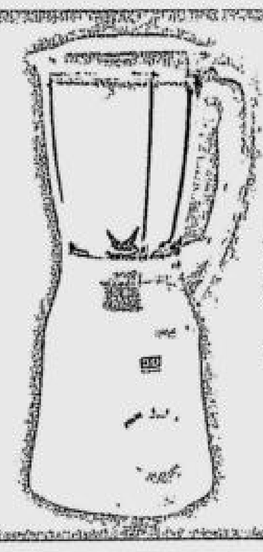

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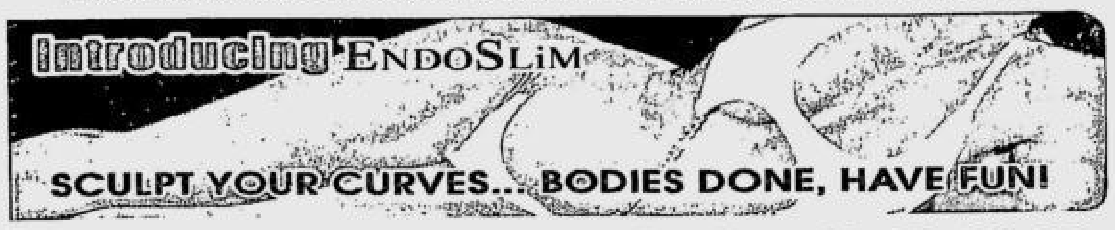
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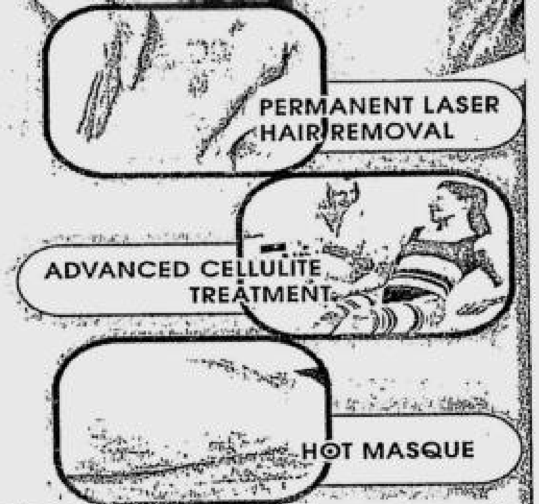

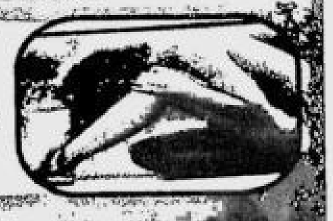

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# Was Binay suspension order deferred?

**By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Fe Zamora**

COULD THE SUSPENSION order that was deemed "served" on Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, who is accused of padding the city payroll with "ghost employees," still be deferred?

Interior Undersecretary Marius Corpus said the order could no longer be deferred because Binay himself received the preventive suspension order at 11:30 p.m. on Friday.

"We're not deferring the preventive suspension of Mayor Binay because as a matter of fact he is legally suspended," Corpus said on the cable channel ANC yesterday.

But a defiant Binay, who reported for work yesterday, said he did not accept the suspension order. "I received the document, but I never believed it was a legal document," he said.

The order, which Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez signed on May 3, said Binay's suspension was "immediately executory" and "shall not be interrupted within the (six-month) period prescribed."

On Sunday, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno deferred the suspension of Binay in the "spirit of fair play."

Also on Sunday, Revenue Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag lifted the freeze order on all but one of the banks holding the funds of the city.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue froze all the bank accounts of the city government on May 2 as part of its efforts to recover P1.1 billion in alleged unpaid taxes.

The twin moves on Sunday came amid fears among certain administration senatorial candidates that the harassment of Binay, an opposition stalwart who is running against administration candidate Lito Lapid in the mayoral race, would boomerang on them.

The administration senatorial candidates said the suspension order was ill-timed.

To squelch "speculation that this is political harassment," the Department of Interior and Local Government will request the Solicitor General to ask the Office of the Ombudsman to lift the suspension order on Binay, Corpus said.

"Evidence not politics dictates our actions. Nothing more, nothing less," Ombudsman Merceditas Gutierrez said in a statement.

Gutierrez said her office was an independent institution that knew no "political timing, political cost and benefits."

"The only timing the Ombudsman is concerned with is 'will respondents' continued presence in office jeopardize the investigation?' If the answer is yes, then that is when the suspension must be ordered and implemented," she stated.

Solicitor General Agnes Devanadera was not seeking the lifting but the deferment of the suspension order.

The Office of the Solicitor General was set to file yesterday a motion to formally defer the implementation of the order until after the elections.

Devanadera's move was upon Puno's request. With reports from Volt Contreras, Jocelyn R. Uy, Jerome Aning and Norman Bordadora

# Binay squeezes GMA bets, says President is his campaign manager

From page A1

Recent surveys have shown that Genuine Opposition and independent senatorial candidates could win most of the 12 Senate seats up for grabs.

Binay, who is facing administration Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid in the mayoral race, was served a suspension order late Friday night in connection with a plunder case filed by a political rival with the Ombudsman.

Two days earlier, the Bureau of Internal Revenue froze the city's bank accounts and the personal accounts of Binay and Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado in what the BIR said was an effort to recover P1.1 billion in unpaid taxes.

## Prepared to fight

In his first public appearance since he was served the order, Binay, president of the United Opposition, used the occasion to denounce the Arroyo administration over what he called its penchant for harassing critics.

"We will show you that we are prepared to fight for the true spirit of democracy, especially in our city," he said on a stage in front of City Hall.

The crowd shouted "Binay" repeatedly as the mayor addressed them, cheering and clapping several times during his 20-minute speech.

A handful of Binay's supporters carried placards expressing praise and sympathy for the embattled mayor.

One placard said, "*Ibasura ang* suspension (Throw out the suspension order)," while another said, "Let the people decide, not you Ms Arroyo."

"With this development, let's clap our hands for Ms Arroyo for she is now my campaign manager. Because of her, my 94-percent lead in surveys just shot up to 101 percent," he said.

## Orchestrated by Genuino?

Makati Rep. Teodoro "Teddy Boy" Locsin, who is also up for reelection, alleged that the moves to suspend Binay and freeze the city's bank accounts were orchestrated by Efraim Genuino, whose sons Erwin and Anthony are running for congressman in the 2nd district and councilor in 1st district, respectively.

Genuino is the chair of the state-owned Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

On Friday, as tension engulfed City Hall after officials served the suspension order on Binay, Locsin said he talked to a Malacañang official, who said he did not know anything about it.

"If Malacañang does not know what is happening in Makati, if Malacañang did not order the assault on City Hall and the illegal ouster of Binay, who then is the Commander in Chief and President of the Republic of the Philippines?" Locsin asked.

"This is Efraim Genuino and not Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Now everything comes together. It's very clear. This is a fight between the powerful people in Malacañang and the people of Makati," Locsin said.

## Turned off

The mayor's opponents, meanwhile, said the developments were not favorable to Binay's reelection campaign, contrary to the mayor's assertion.

Alex Marcelino, Lapid's media bureau chief, said Makati residents who used to be Binay supporters were "turned off" by the mayor's attitude toward the suspension order.

Marcelino noted that Lapid, during Joseph Estrada's administration, had accepted a six-month suspension order on him without protest to prevent clashes between his supporters and officials who carried out the order.

Lakas congressional candidate Oscar Ibay, who filed the plunder charges that served as basis for the suspension order, agreed, saying the people were generally unsympathetic to Binay's current concerns.

Binay said the administration's recent actions were a grave cause of concern.

"If they could do this to me, the mayor of the city and leader of the opposition, we should all be scared," he said.

## March for Jonas Burgos

Binay said that hours before the suspension order was served on him, he had joined a march for Jonas Burgos, the son of the late press freedom icon Joe Burgos Jr., who disappeared recently, allegedly after being abducted by military-looking elements.

"This administration does not countenance people's marches. We don't know if we wake up the next day, we'll still be with our families. Why do they just investigate and investigate, and deny and deny?" he said.

"Now we know that it's a time to be uncertain. At any time, you may disappear, you may end up dead," Binay said.

He noted that several Armalite-wielding policemen were "roaming around" his house, and soldiers deployed around the city.

"It's the time to show how you feel and to unite," he said. "All of you should unite to change this government."

Quoting the late Sen. Jose W. Diokno, Binay said: "We will continue the struggle, no matter how long, no matter what the cost, until we can build a just community for men and women to live on."

## Flip-flop

In a related development, Binay decried what he called the "flip-flop" of the Department of the Interior and Local Government on his suspension.

He said the agency's decision to defer the oath-taking of Vice Mayor Mercado as acting mayor and its position that Binay was "deemed suspended" had left a leadership vacuum at City Hall.

"The DILG's apparent flip-flop has endangered the state of public services here in Makati. Without a local chief executive, official transactions involving the Office of the Mayor will not move," Binay said in a statement.

# Gatchalian's 4 sons have virtual lock on Valenzuela

From page A1

Sherwin was a congressman in Valenzuela's second district before he became mayor. Rex ran for city councilor but lost in the 2004 elections.

## Top schools

Copies of the personal data sheets of the brothers (except Kenneth) obtained by the INQUIRER showed they had studied in prestigious universities.

Sherwin graduated from Boston University, while Rexlon obtained his Bachelor of Arts and Sciences degree, cum laude, from George Washington University.

Weslie has a master's degree in Management from London Metropolitan University.

The data sheets also indicated they were all top executives of their family's various businesses.

The family interests cover real estate, casino hotel operations, airlines, leisure resorts and plastic products.

Their father, William, heads Wellex Industries Inc., which reported total assets of P2.1 billion as of end 2006.

A purported crony of ousted President Joseph Estrada, William's name came up during Estrada's impeachment trial in 2000 when his listed firm was alleged to have received a P500-million loan from Estrada who signed using the name "Jose Velarde."

William denied he was an Estrada crony, or that he had obtained any favors from the former President to benefit his businesses.

## Business grip

Rep. Bobbit Carlos, the mayor's leading opponent, claimed the Gatchalian brothers' intention in joining politics was to fortify the family's business holdings.

"They want to strengthen their grip on the city to enhance their business by running the city as a family affair and do not really care for the people of the city," Carlos said in an interview.

The brothers seemed unfazed but, despite repeated requests, did not grant media interviews and refused to be photographed together.

According to Jing Hernandez, the mayor's chief of staff, "the brothers are busy and would like to concentrate on their campaign and house-to-house sorties."

The brothers' campaign posters dominate the city, outnumbering the posters of the other candidates. Their mug shots, capturing the brothers in a smile, are posted on poles, fences, concrete walls and trees.

According to a source close to the brothers, the decision for them not to be seen together was a political strategy.

"They are aware of the situation and had to avoid the [impression] of them monopolizing the elective positions," said the source, who asked not to be named for lack of authority to speak on the subject.

The source also said the decision for the brothers to run at the same time for the congressional and mayoral posts was not a family decision.

## Helping each other

"It was a party decision, not the family's," the source said.

The source also revealed that what helped the move of the brothers to agree to the party's decision for them to run was the personal experience of their oldest brother.

"Sherwin really wanted to implement reforms to improve the lives of his constituents but his hands are sometimes tied because of politicking," the source said.

"At least, with his two brothers in Congress, they think they would be more efficient and be able to help each other" the source said. *With a report from Inquirer Research*

# New French president vows ...

From page A1

garian immigrant, has made it clear he wants to be a more proactive and radical leader than Chirac, promising to loosen rigid labor laws, trim fat from the public service, cut taxes and wage war on unemployment.

"The French people ... have chosen to break with the ideas and habits of the past. I will thus rehabilitate work, authority, morality, respect, merit," said Sarkozy, a former interior minister with a hardline reputation.

The French president is elected for five years, is commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, nominates the prime minister and is responsible for foreign and defense policies.

## Fresh elections

Sarkozy will take power on May 16, becoming the first French head of state to be born after World War II.

He will then name a government and start campaigning for June's parliamentary election. Most analysts expect his UMP party to retain its majority, giving Sarkozy a good chance of pushing through his economic and social reform program.

"It is a clear mandate for reforms. He will have to fine-tune things very skillfully, of course," said Nicolas Sobczak, an economist at Goldman Sachs.

Sarkozy is promising a deluge of reforms in his first 100 days, including plans to undermine the 35-hour work week by cutting taxes on overtime, curbing union powers and tightening sentencing for repeat offenders.

Union leaders have denounced Sarkozy's proposals. Analysts say France could face crippling strikes in the autumn of the sort that tripped Chirac when he took office in 1995 and tried to impose change.

## Socialists in disarray

Royal, an unmarried mother of four, would have been France's first female president. Her defeat could throw her party into disarray, with splits between those who say it must remain firm to its leftist traditions and others who want a shift to the political center, like socialist parties elsewhere in Europe.

The Socialists have suffered their third presidential defeat in a row. Royal started the year as favorite but never recovered from a string of campaign gaffes and a manifesto full of lofty ambition but short of precise detail.

She told supporters on Sunday that she would continue her recent push to link her party with the centrists.

"You can count on me to deepen the renovation of the left and the pursuit of new convergences beyond its current boundaries," she told downhearted party activists.

## Congratulations

European Union leaders congratulated Sarkozy, who promised to put France back into the driving seat of Europe after the country voted down the EU Constitution in a 2005 referendum.

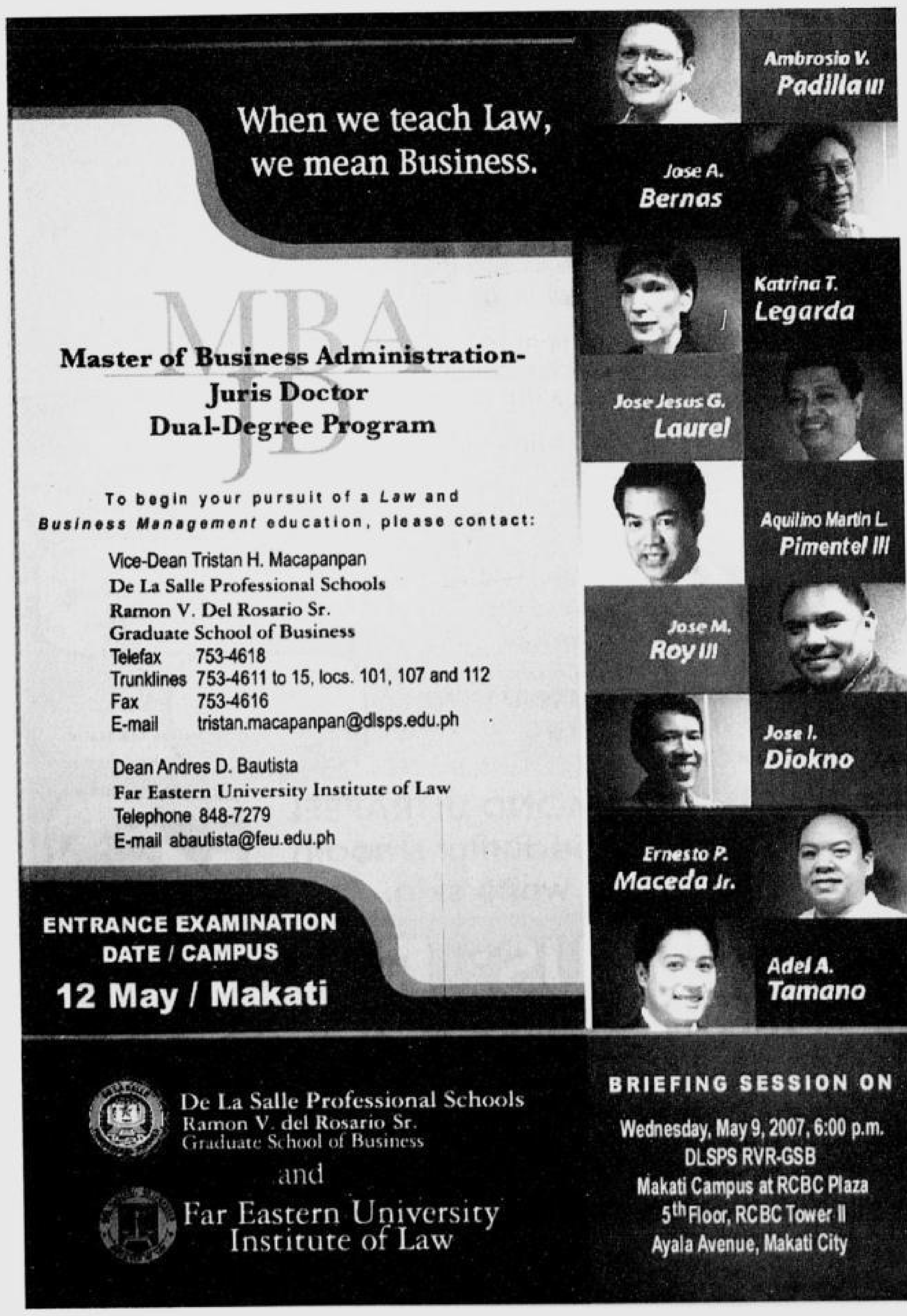
"Tonight France is back in Europe," Sarkozy said.

US President George W. Bush also telephoned to offer his congratulations and said he expected good relations with Sarkozy, who has made a priority of repairing the damage to French-US relations caused by tension over the Iraq war.

Sarkozy said France would be America's friend. Even so, he urged Washington to do more to combat global warming.

The Socialists portrayed Sarkozy as a danger to France, saying he was authoritarian and likely to exacerbate tensions in the poor, multiracial suburbs that ring many French cities and where the epicenter of three weeks of rioting in 2005.

Thousands of policemen were mobilized to patrol sensitive suburbs on Sunday, and there were skirmishes between leftist sympathizers and police in Paris, Toulouse and Lyon. Police said a number of cars were also set alight in suburbs around Paris. *Reports from Reuters and AP*



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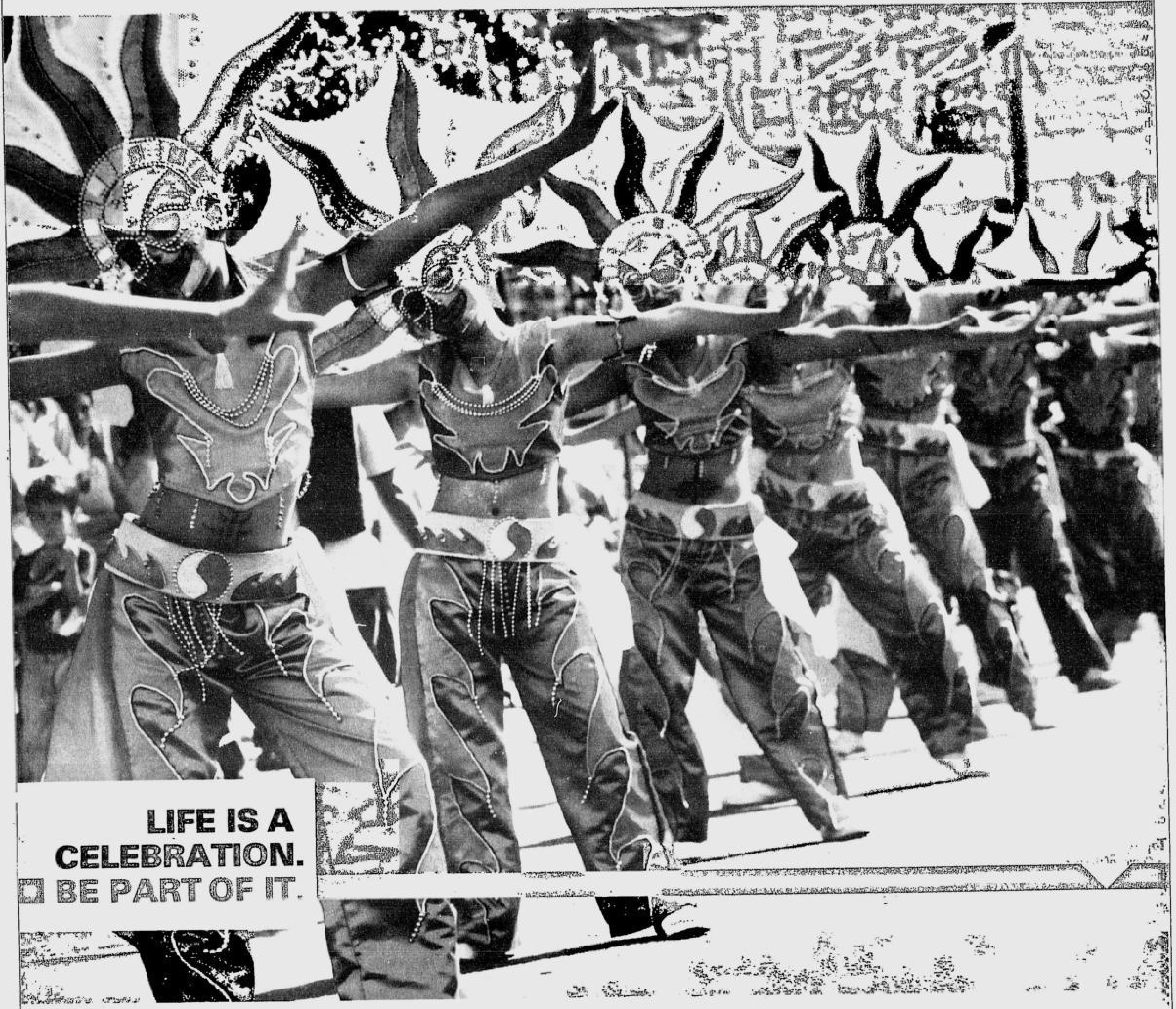

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# Ex-Indon president helps cops catch KL trader, 3 Filipino execs in Jakarta

KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA—A TIP by a former Indonesian president led to the arrest in Jakarta of a Malaysian businessman in connection with a multimillion-dollar fraud case, a news report and officials said Monday.

Former President Abdurrahman Wahid notified police that Vijayeswaran S. Vijayaratnam, the managing director of a company named QI Ltd., was on Interpol's wanted list for alleged fraud in the Philippines, the New Straits Times reported.

It said Wahid, who discussed business with Vijayeswaran several years ago, also told police about his whereabouts in Jakarta.

This led to the arrest of Vijayeswaran and three Filipino QI executives at a five-star hotel in Jakarta on Thursday last week, the newspaper said.

Jakarta police chief Maj. Gen. Adang Firman confirmed the arrest of four foreigners, but said it followed a tip-off from Interpol. He did not identify them by name and declined to comment further.

An arrest warrant has been issued against Vijayeswaran for suspected fraud and conspiracy, according to Interpol's website.

The newspaper said Vijayeswaran was wanted in the Philippines in connection with a fraud case involving US$90 million (euro66 million), but gave no other details.

Ricardo Diaz, an official of the Philippines' National Bureau of Investigation, said Vijayeswaran and four colleagues, including a German, have pending arrest warrants in the Philippines for syndicated fraud.

"He fled the Philippines, so we put him on Interpol red notice, that's why he was arrested," Diaz said. He said the German national managed to escape "so only he and three Filipinos were arrested."

Vijayeswaran and the others allegedly defrauded a businessman who was promised huge returns on his investments, which the company officers pocketed, Diaz said. The man allegedly suffered losses of US$625,000 (euro480,000), he said.

Diaz said the Philippines had asked Indonesia to extradite the four arrested men.

QI group director of finance Richard E. Zinkiewicz, however, told The Associated Press from Hong Kong, where QI is based, that Vijayeswaran and the others were wanted in the Philippines because of a "wholly unmerited claim" made by their two former Filipino associates following a business dispute.

"The company and its representatives are cooperating fully with the Interpol in Indonesia regarding this matter," he said.

The New Straits Times said Wahid knew about Vijayeswaran because the two had met some years ago when the Malaysian businessman had offered to make gold coins bearing images of the former president and his grandfather.

It was not clear whether the coins were ever made.

QI has branches across the world and makes limited-edition coins, gold and diamond jewelry and time pieces, according to its website. *AP*

# Filipino workers recount nightmare in Nigeria

From page A1

plant, but batches had been flown home since January when Manila ordered the return of OFWs based in Port Harcourt after 25 Filipinos were kidnapped in the area in previous incidents.

"I hid with my four roommates in the bathroom. Then we heard them kicking down doors. When they got inside the campsite, they shouted "All Filipinos out!" Blen said. "They spoke in English but it had a heavy accent," he said.

"They took whoever they saw upon entering the rooms," added the welder, of Los Baños, Laguna, who traveled to Nigeria six months ago enticed by the US$550 (around P25,000) monthly pay.

The worker was sleeping in his quarters at Camp F, a staffhouse of at least 20 Filipino plant workers, when he heard gunshots at 1 a.m. on Thursday. He knew then that armed men had infiltrated the entire camp for some 200 workers of Daewoo Engineering and Construction.

## Masked attackers

"At first I thought it was raining and that I was hearing thunder. So I looked out the window ... it wasn't raining, there was no lightning. Then I returned to my room, and then I heard that there were gunshots, and they were getting closer," said 31-year-old Roderick Sevilla, a materials controller at the plant.

Sevilla then saw the men who had come to give the camp a terrifying wake-up call.

"They all looked the same. They were dark-skinned, they were wearing soldiers' uniforms, camouflage. They were carrying rifles, and I saw one with an AK-47. And they were all wearing masks that covered the face, only the eyes and nose could be seen," he said in Filipino.

## Prepared for malaria

Realizing that the camp was under attack, Sevilla said he returned to his room, woke up his colleagues and told them to get ready, resigned to the likelihood that they would all be rounded up and taken away.

"I told them 'Dress up, we are being attacked. Get ready. If ever they get any of us or get all of us, at least we are ready to protect ourselves from malaria.' Because I knew at that time that if we will be kidnapped, we will be taken to the mountains," he said.

Sevilla and his fellow workers also knew there was nothing they could do against the rebels.

"That's how it is because if we don't go with them, it's either they kill us or beat us up. That's all. We will go with them for the sake of our life," Sevilla said.

While aware of the dangers of working in Africa's largest oil source, Sevilla went there six months ago. "It's money that we were after. We just want to earn," he said.

Reiterating Manila's policy to leave to Nigerian authorities the task of negotiating with the kidnappers, Conejos said the Department of Foreign Affairs had no information about a reported US$10-million ransom demand.

## Appeal to media

He said Nigerian authorities had yet to identify the kidnappers they had contacted.

Conejos also appealed to the media "to be circumspect" in reporting about the abduction. He gave the same advice to the OFWs on their arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at 8:10 a.m.

"Lives are on the line here," he said, criticizing reports on the alleged telephone appeal of one of those being held in a still unknown location in Nigeria. The call, broadcast by a Manila radio, reported that those abducted were being beaten up and starved.

"In the airing of telephone call, we were really playing into the hands of the kidnappers. That's what the kidnappers want to do: To create panic. So we have to balance these things," Conejos said.

"We have been assured by the Nigerian government that all of our eight OFWs are sound and in good condition," he said, contradicting the radio report.

There are about 4,000 to 4,500 Filipinos in Nigeria, among them skilled workers employed in oil-extraction plants there. *With reports from Cynthia D. Balana and AFP*

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# 'Go-slow' approach favored to address ...

From page A1

Nearly half (49 percent) of the respondents in the Philippines endorsed a "go-slow, low-cost approach" in dealing with global warming.

About one in five (18 percent) said the country should not take costly steps "until we are sure that it is really a problem."

Twenty-seven percent viewed global warming as "a serious and pressing problem" that should be immediately addressed "even if this involves significant costs."

Global warming is the gradual increase in temperatures due to the emission of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide, which trap solar heat.

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the international body charged with studying climate change, has recently released a report which said that global warming was "very likely" caused by man's activities.

The UN group has warned that global warming will lead to stronger typhoons, droughts, rising sea levels, among others.

The opinion favoring gradual, low-cost steps in addressing global warming was prevalent across all areas (52 percent in Luzon outside Metro Manila, 48 percent in Metro Manila and in Mindanao, and 43 percent in the Visayas).

It was 54 percent in class E, 47 percent in class D and 41 percent in classes ABC.

The opinion that global warming is a pressing problem that should be addressed soon despite significant costs is higher among members of classes ABC (34 percent) and among college graduates (35 percent). This view was shared by 19 percent among those belonging to class E and 25 percent among those who only attended some high school education.

## Three statements

The international survey asked respondents from 12 countries, including the Philippines, to choose among three statements:

- Until we are sure that it is really a problem, we should not take any steps that would have economic costs.
- The problem of global warming should be addressed, but its effects will be gradual, so we can deal with the problem gradually by taking steps that are low in cost.
- Global warming is a serious and pressing problem. We should begin taking steps now even if this involves significant costs.

"Although there is general agreement in 12 countries that global warming is real, there are differences over how much should be spent to address it," SWS said in a statement released yesterday.

Among the countries polled, Australia had the largest proportion in favor of measures to combat global warming (92 percent). The proportion is smallest in India (49 percent). The Philippines is in the middle of the range (76 percent).

It was 83 percent in both China and Israel, 82 percent in Argentina, 80 percent in the United States, 69 percent in Poland, 69 percent in Armenia, 68 percent in Thailand, 67 percent in Ukraine, and 66 percent in Russia.

## Gradual, low-cost approach

The gradual, low-cost approach in dealing with global warming was the position taken by 41 percent of the respondents in Thailand and China, 39 percent in Poland,.37 percent in Ukraine and the United States, and 34 percent in Russia.

Thirty-two percent in Armenia and 30 percent in India shared this view.

The view that global warming is "serious and pressing" and should be dealt with quickly "even if this involves significant costs" was most prevalent in Australia (69 percent), while it was least common in India (19 percent).

The international survey was done in cooperation with polling organizations in the respondent-countries, as well as in Indonesia, France, Iran, Mexico, South Korea, Peru and the Palestinian Territories.

"The participating national survey institutes agreed to hold off public release of their national findings until the global results were completed and could be cited for comparison," SWS said.

In the Philippines, the survey used face-to-face interviews with 1,200 households (300 each in Metro Manila, balance of Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao). It had a margin of error of plus-or-minus 3 percentage points. *Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research*

# Senatorial bet Victor Wood hits commercialization of elections

From page A1

try's biggest networks—GMA and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.—as candidates live by the dictum that the majority of voters depend on the boob tube in choosing their candidates.

Asked how he would solve corruption, Wood proposed that the election system be reformatted.

He said balloting could be held every six years for all elective positions from the barangay level and government-owned TV stations Channels 4, 9 and 13 should provide free air time to all candidates.

## Fix elections

Wood wondered out loud why candidates would fork over so much money to win when they were only aiming to be public servants, which he said was "no big deal."

"If we fix the elections, our country will improve. After each election, there is just too much expenses, our country will suffer, only the financiers win. America, which is so rich, does not spend as much as us. When I was in New York, the candidate for senator was just around the corner carrying a placard.

"In the Philippines, you have to spend P100 million, P200 million. Wow. That is the reason why the people go hungry. Let's change this. After all, what is this? We are just public servants, the salary is small," Wood said.

Team Unity (TU) senatorial candidate Cesar Montano shared Wood's sentiments on the excessive political spending in the country.

## Money for housing, medicine

Montano, who had grumbled about the lack of financial support from the Arroyo administration for his senatorial bid, said: "I have been saying for a long time that the money needed for the elections is too big. Billions will be spent if we put it all together."

Montano noted that even if a "percentage" of the election spending had been allocated to Gawad Kalinga's housing program or to provide free medicine to poor children, "we would have achieved most of the advocacy we have been pushing."

"We (candidates) will still meet after the elections, some of us will win, some of us will lose, but the public will be the winner (if we use the election for better purposes)," Montano said.

In the first part of "Isang Tanong" aired a week ago, TU senatorial candidate Miguel Zubiri, one of the biggest TV ad spenders, defended his decision to pour millions of pesos into prime time TV ads as a way of making sure the voters would get to know him and his advocacies more intimately in a short period of time.

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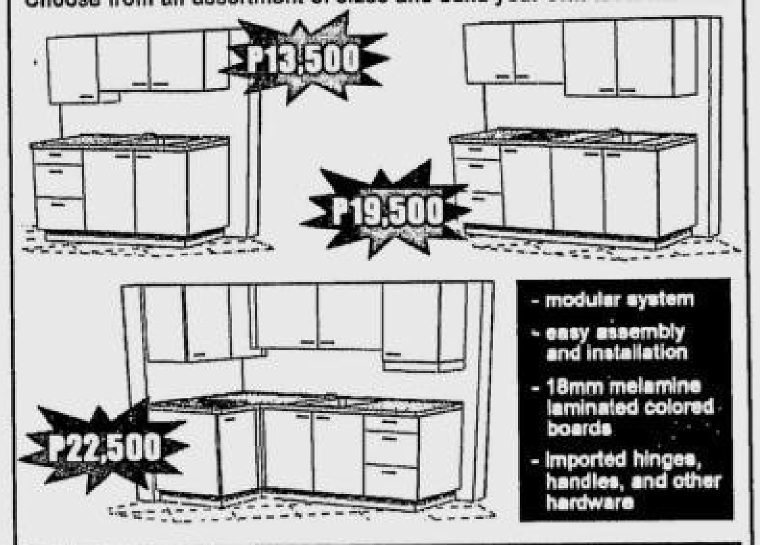

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RPN IBC

May 2, 2007

**President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**
Republic of the Philippines
Malacañang, Manila

**RE: Renewed Appeal for Financial Assistance/Privatization**

Dear Madam President:

We respectfully write you again Madam President in behalf of the employees of **Radio Philippines Network (RPN) and Intercontinental Broadcasting Corporation (IBC)**. We have read in a national daily the administration's announcement that the privatization of RPN ad IBC has been finally shelved.

Ironically the announcement came after a long silence following much publicized joint privatization efforts of PMO, PCGG and DOF.

We, the concerned employees of both networks STRONGLY REGRET the administration's position since everybody pinned our hope on privatization as the ultimate solution to long years of miserable state of sequestered networks and the sad plight of more than 800 employees due to the unpaid benefits and delayed payment of retirement benefits to most of our senior comrades who have spent their productive years with the network as well as non-remittance of IBC's SSS, Pag-Ibig and Philhealth since 2004.

The premature announcement of the privatization did not help any, in fact, the frequent but inconsistent press releases then merely created uncertainty, turning advertisers away.

**OUR UTMOST CONCERNS NOW ARE THE NETWORKS SURVIVAL AND HOW TO ADDRESS THE EMPLOYEES INCREASING FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES.**

The frequent change in management which is coterminous to every administration, a political setup arising from sequestration, has not worked quite well for the networks. There is no continuity in the planning and worse, no capital infusion for infrastructure, technological upgrade or production improvement.

Therefore, both have lagged miles beyond the competitors and have incurred huge debts accruing thru the years starting from sequestration.

Following our published appeal to Her Excellency in February 12, 2007, We the employees of both sequestered media nationwide URGENTLY REITERATE our appeal for the administration to give the necessary attention in order to address the worsening state of the two (2) networks which our officials whom you have appointed, under the present leadership of Secretary CONRADO LIMCAOCO as Supervising Secretary and the rest of the Board of Directors (BOD) have been very much aware of. More so, with then Government Mass Media Group Head Sec. Cerge Remonde whom we had been constantly in touched with, concerning the state of the network and its employees.

Needless to say RPN and IBC, with full cooperation of the employees, have effectively been serving to achieve their mission for national interest as vital instruments of public information, service and entertainment given their present state.

**WE APPEAL THAT DURING THIS ADMINISTRATION, FINAL RESOLUTION BE REACHED FOR THE SAKE OF TWO (2) NETWORKS CONTINUED EXISTENCE AND EQUALLY IMPORTANT FOR THE SUBSISTENCE AND SURVIVAL OF MORE THAN 800 FAMILIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.**

It goes with much appreciation if we be given the opportunity for an audience with Her Excellency.

God Bless you Madam President, your family and your governance.

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# OPINION

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## Desperate moves

**EDITORIAL**

THE ARROYO ADMINISTRATION IS RUNNING scared and desperate in the current electoral campaign. All the reputable polls have warned it of impending defeat particularly in the senatorial contest and some key local posts. And so it is using all the resources, all the funds, all the manpower and all the powers at its command to try to reverse the trend.

The latest sign of the administration's desperation was its order to suspend Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and to freeze the funds of the city deposited in various banks, apparently to deprive the mayor of financing in the last week of the campaign. But realizing that it made a big public relations mistake that could drive more people to vote for Binay, the administration retreated, deferred the mayor's suspension and lifted the freeze order on the city funds.

Even before the start of the election period the administration was busy consolidating its forces, moving even against oppositionist party-list groups like Bayan Muna. It had Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo arrested and detained on questionable charges and would have transferred him to Leyte had not Leyte Judge Ephrem Abando himself ordered Ocampo's appearance before the court deferred. Then the Supreme Court ordered Ocampo's release on bail, and he is free once more to campaign for his party.

As early as November 2006, the administration deployed heavily armed soldiers in 26 poor barangays in Metro Manila where many activists live. Asked to explain the presence of the soldiers, administration and military officials said that they were there to deal with the worsening peace and order problem. But if that were so, the proper agency that should have been called would have been the police. Later, it turned out that the soldiers were campaigning against leftist party-list groups like Bayan Muna.

Binay is not the first opposition candidate that the administration sought to suspend. Hundreds of armed policemen assaulted the Iloilo Provincial Capitol on Jan. 17 to serve a dismissal order on Gov. Niel Tupas. On the same day, the Court of Appeals in Cebu issued a temporary restraining order suspending enforcement of the dismissal order.

In 2004, the administration was suspected to have diverted the P728-million fertilizer fund to bankroll the election campaign of Ms Arroyo and her allies. Now it is believed to be again tapping hundreds of millions of pesos in government funds to buy votes and ensure the victory of administration candidates. Here it is a case of, to use the Tagalog expression, "*Ginigisa ang taumbayan sa sariling mantika* (The people are being cooked in their own fat)."

Two constitutional bodies—the Office of the Ombudsman and the Commission on Elections—are being used for partisan ends: the Ombudsman to suspend elective opposition officials who are running for reelection and the Comelec to rule against reelectionist officials like Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo. Robredo's Filipino citizenship has been affirmed by the Supreme Court, and yet the Comelec, presuming to act as if it is a higher authority than the highest tribunal in the land, has disqualified him on the ground that he is not a Filipino citizen.

Suspicion is rife that the administration's cheating mechanism is being activated, if it has not already been put in place. Opposition leaders are anticipating another "Hello Garci" incident, or some such similar incidents to take place, to manipulate the results in the senatorial and in some of the congressional and local elections. No wonder the Social Weather Stations March 2007 Rostov Survey showed that 40 percent of the people think that "President Macapagal-Arroyo will cheat in the coming May 2007 elections in order for her candidates to win."

The tainted Comelec, which will oversee the elections, is itself distrusted by almost one-third of the people. An SWS survey in February found that 48 percent trust the Comelec while 28 percent distrust it, for a net trust rating of only +18.

But the administration should be forewarned and remember the lesson of the snap election in February 1986. Thirty technicians manning the computers at the Philippine International Convention Center walked out en masse to protest the deliberate changing of election results. The walkout set in motion a chain of events that culminated in the People Power Revolution on Edsa on Feb. 22-25. Massive cheating in the May 14 elections could trigger another such movement.

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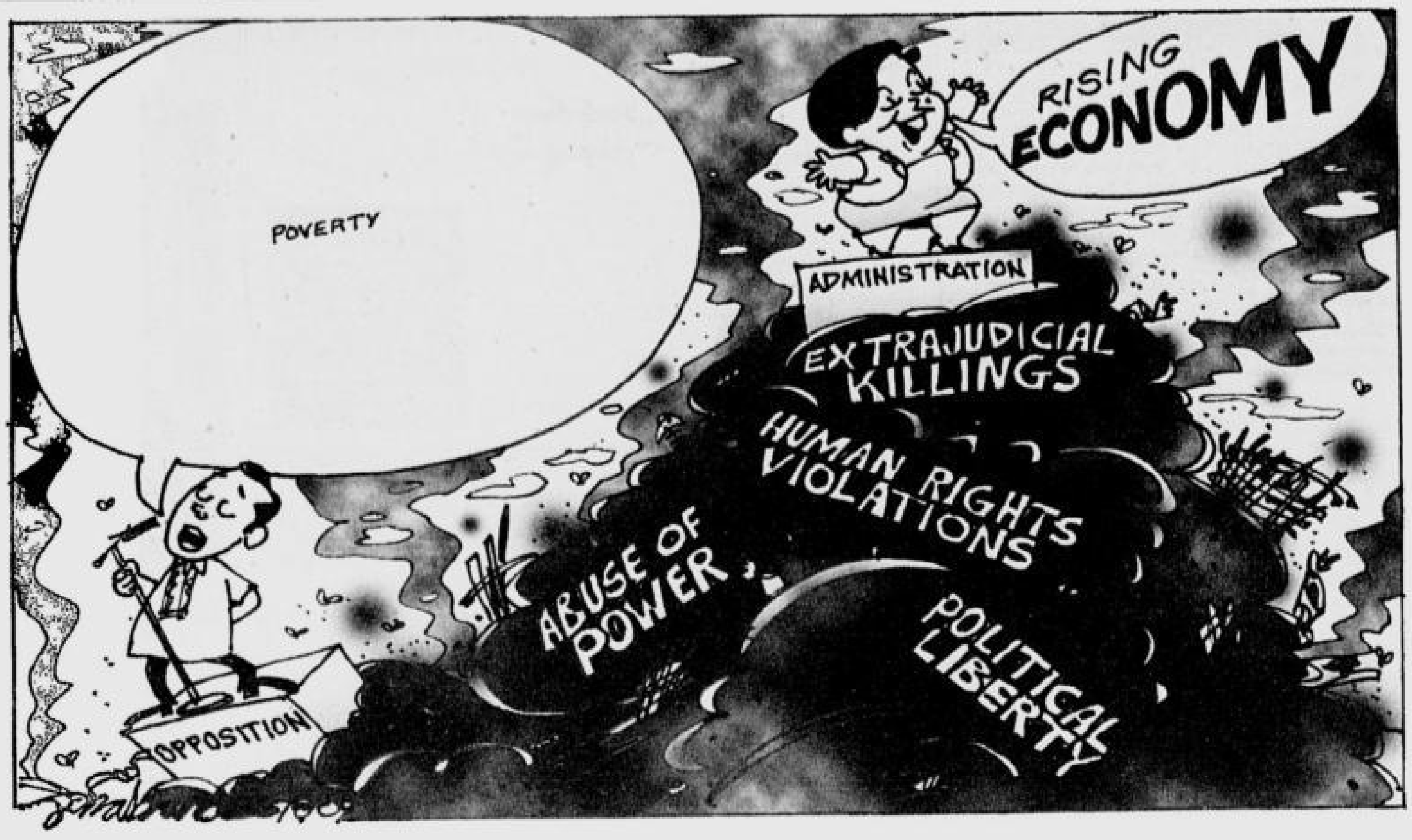

## Vote for Spiderman—or Darna?

**VIEWPOINT**

*Juan L. Mercado*

IN THE ELECTION HOMESTRETCH, OUR e-mail boxes are jammed with poll items. From Los Baños, Laarni Lumanta refers to Viewpoint column "The Morning After" last May 3 and comments:

"I want to air what's on the mind of an ordinary citizen a week before election day.

"Until now I have just half of the required 12 names for senators...Maybe I should go for Spiderman or Darna? What do you think? Considering the Kapatiran reform programs, I might as well include them.

"Who among the GOs will I include? (They) haven't got any reform program... They have their own little agenda, maybe because they have little minds? Fight graft and corruption? How? They are part of it.

"I cannot choose among provincial and municipal candidates. Why couldn't we feel the presence of the mayor, vice mayor, councilors, even board members in our town? Do we really have local officials? The bio-data of aspiring candidates are unbelievable! I've resided in this town for 34 years. It hasn't budged from being a fourth-class municipality.

"When are we going to see the day when no squatters are found because rural programs offer better opportunities? And the day when the political environment is favorable for business opportunities for OFWs, ordinary people with hard-earned resources, small entrepreneurs? Or the day when threats of security and violence are almost nil and 'five-six' operators are nowhere to be seen?

"These can be achieved by voting for the right candidate. But at the rate things are going, we can identify at most six."

Merged precincts may cause nerve-wracking delays in casting your vote on May 14, Ralph Diaz of the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting cautions. Given a primitive manual count system, this invites fraud.

To save money, the Commission on Elections merged precincts, writes Diaz a former United Nations officer. Those lumped together "should not have more than 200 voters." That's the theory. But "the reality is far different."

"In our Cubao barangay, Laging Handa, only 3 out of 14 merged precincts have less than 200 voters. The rest exceed that. The largest, in fact, has 261 voters on its list. On average, each combined precinct has 210 plus voters.

"What does this imply? The voting period is between 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thus, in merged precincts, each voter must finish voting in two-three minutes! Is this possible? Most likely not.

"Voting time may have to be stretched until 6 p.m. A three-hour extension gives each voter 3.14 minutes to cast his vote. Some will give up in disgust...

"Worse, the crucial counting, as a result, will be set back accordingly. Computerized tallies by watchdog bodies will be delayed. As PPCRV coordinator, in the 2004 elections, I observed that the members of the Board of Election Inspectors were ill-equipped to work non-stop for 24 hours. The spirit may be willing. But frail flesh will compromise efficiency and accuracy of vote counting."

Your column last April 12, "Political Incest," dealt with "the ordinary dynasty, where a family member succeeds to the position vacated by an incumbent," writes Gerardo Garrovilio of Dumaguete. But there's "simultaneous dynasty." Successors don't cool their heels until relative-incumbents leave. Unlike fearful angels, they rush in.

This stampede happens in multi-member chambers: the Senate, city councils, or provincial boards. Alan Cayetano and Koko Pimentel seek election as senators while their sister and father are incumbents. "Simultaneous dynasty" is much worse than run-of-the-mill dynasties.

A Negros Chronicle letter writer coined a new term to describe the problem: "double-dynasty." It's not earth-shaking, but it describes this particular problem well. "Double-dynasty—it has a nice ring to it."

Mother-son Loi and Jinggoy Estrada are today's "double-dynasty" in the Senate. Earlier we had the cousins of Serge and John Osmeña plus the father-in-law-cum-son-in-law: Ramon Revilla and Robert Jaworski. "John Osmeña had his turn on the double-dynasty system. He is insatiable."

It will become more serious because of double pork-barrel fund allocations. If Alan Cayetano wins, he'd be entitled to a P200-million pork barrel yearly. His sister's share is another P200 million. (Thus) the family's pork barrel would amount to P400 million per year. Double-dynasty equals double pork barrel.

Wait. Suppose Alan Cayetano's wife wins as a congresswoman? Her pork slab will be P70 million per year. Doing a little arithmetic, the Cayetanos would corner P470 million annually. "Now, that's a lot of pork. No wonder they are fighting for this kind of system."

"What is the voter to do. Speaking for myself, I've decided to junk double-dynasty candidates... And I urge fellow voters to (do likewise).

Tawi-Tawi is the country's southernmost province. From Simunul town, Vice Mayor Idris and Alfrasad Sabal e-mail their gripe over alleged Comelec foot-dragging. Last Dec. 13, Commissioners Florentino Tuason and Romeo Brawner ruled that professor Wasilah Abdurahman was the duly elected mayor. Five months later, the Comelec still hasn't confirmed the ruling en banc.

"Elections are just a few days away... We appeal: open the eyes of the Comelec to stop dragging its feet and decide, with finality, EAC No. A-12-2005," they write.

Maybe Chairman Benjamin Abalos swears by John Milton's "they also serve who only stand and wait"?

*(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)*

## Shocking

**THERE'S THE RUB**

*Conrado de Quiros*

RAUL GONZALEZ FLASHES OFF HIS SENSE of humor. Corazon Aquino, he says, probably bugged her own phone to monitor Kris. The candidates of Team Unity are equally mirthful. "I don't believe that," says Prospero Pichay. "Ask Noynoy, he might be bugging Cory."

Gonzalez, of course, is the same fellow who suggested drolly that murdered Peace Corps volunteer Julia Campbell was asking for it by traipsing alone in the wilds of the Banawe. He is the same fellow who caricatured Philip Alston as a *muchacho* or errand boy of the UN whose report about the wholesale slaughter of journalists and political activists in this country should not be taken seriously. He is the same fellow who laughingly offered barangay officials P10,000 to engineer a 12-0 Team Unity sweep, and who, as Eduardo Ermita said with much amusement afterward, was the only one, being the justice secretary, who could say whether what he did was right or wrong.

Pichay, on the other hand, is the fellow who wants us to plant a vegetable in the Senate, a proposal that singly has set back the vegetarian advocacy by a hundred years.

What can one say? These are very funny people.

I've had my differences with Cory, but I've always held her in tremendous respect. I may not agree that the end of Marcos began only with the martyrdom of her husband (I'll always maintain it began with the martyrdom of the countless idealists, many of them achingly young men and women, long before Ninoy), but I agree that what she did for this country was absolutely heroic. To see her made an object of ridicule by people who are not fit to kiss her feet over something that poses the direst implications for the future of our freedoms, no, my sense of humor is intact but I am not laughing.

At the very least what an ugly bunch of ingrates! No Cory, no them. That is so not just in that Cory helped topple Marcos, and so brought all the things they are now enjoying in its wake. That is so in that Cory helped coddle the one person I had been warning her in my columns not to, whose ambition, ruthlessness and ungratefulness had been patent from the start, and so produced a Frankenstein monster in its wake. No Cory—and Jaime Cardinal Sin—no Gloria. Without them, Gloria would never have been acceptable to those who were risking life and limb to fight tyranny anew.

Look how they repay her. Well, as the Tagalog saying goes, you raise a snake, you get bitten.

But it's more than just their personal relationships that's at stake here. Cory has no record of resorting to antics to get herself or anybody else elected; she doesn't need to. Pichay's comment on Noynoy does not reflect on Cory, it reflects on him. That is exactly the sort of thing he and his gang of losers are capable of: survive accidents and apparent assassination attempts to get noticed. Only for the public to be sorry the accident and apparent assassination attempt did not succeed.

If Cory says her phone is bugged, you can believe her phone is bugged. That may be a laughing matter to Gonzalez and Team Unity, but it is not so for the rest of us. In conjunction with the killings, the disappearances, the attempts to disqualify Jejomar Binay and Jesse Robredo, and the runaway election mayhem, it says clearly that there are no limits to which this government will stoop to keep power. It's not just that we are headed for a new round of dictatorship, it's that the foundations of dictatorship are being laid down brick by brick even as we speak.

Indeed, at the time Cory discovered the bug in her phone, she had been taking government to task for the disappearance of Joe Burgos' son Jonas. That case was enough to cause European Commission Ambassador Alistair MacDonald to express "shock": Jonas was dragged in broad daylight in front of a crowd inside a mall by armed men and has not been seen since. His friends fear he has been "salvaged." Even "impunity" no longer captures the brazenness with which this country's kidnappers and murderers ply their trade. It's not even defying the world to do something about it, it's simply not caring whether it does or not.

Norberto Gonzales expresses befuddlement. "I don't know why these things are happening at this time." The hell you don't. I may not know at this point who abducted Jonas Burgos or who bugged Cory Aquino, but I do know that the ultimate responsibility for these lies with this government. Why are these things happening at this time? Because if government itself is not wreaking them, it is emboldening others to wreak them. The government might as well, by the sheer ubiquity of the abuse and the mayhem and its demonstrations of lack of power or inclination to stop them, have issued a full-page advertisement in the INQUIRER telling the cutthroats of this country to feel free to crawl out of the woodwork. The culture of impunity—or since that has a ring of abstraction to it, rampaging bloodlust—is the most contagious disease of all. Faster than ebola, deadlier than AIDS.

But that is not the most shocking thing of all. The most shocking thing of all is not that the one Filipino who has captured the imagination of the world can have her phone tapped, it is that the gangsters she helped bring to power can laugh at her plight when she complains. The most shocking thing of all is not that the son of the one journalist who most contributed to ending a tyranny can be tyrannized in this way, it is that the people he helped liberate can be silent in the face of it. Where is the weeping and gnashing of teeth? Where are the cries of anguish and torment of those who have just been plunged into hell?

Those who keep saying in their teeny-weeny voices, "Life goes on," had better rethink their stupidity. Life does not go on with the weight of absolute evil. Death does.

# Gov't offices need political sense

**POLITICAL TIDBITS**

*Belinda Olivares-Cunanan*

OMBUDSMAN MERCEDITAS GUTIERREZ AND Local Government Secretary Ronaldo Puno are saying there was no politics in the preventive suspension order handed down on controversial Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay, but few would believe them. Most people outside of Makati City Hall are ready to believe all that's said against him—such is his reputation. But even assuming there was no politics involved in the government agencies' move against him, trying to enforce that order one week before the elections betrayed their lack of political sense, something government offices need very badly. In this case the two offices look so inept.

* * *

What the government should do, after the election where Binay is sure to be re-elected, is to strengthen its graft and corruption cases against him. I have it on good authority from some of Binay's supporters themselves that he is deadly afraid of those graft and corruption cases, as he knows they are very strong. He should also be made to account for why the richest city in the country never paid the withholding taxes already deducted from its employees for many years.

Binay has transmogrified over the past two decades into an incredible warlord who's prepared to use brute force to prevent his ouster from City Hall. But over the years, too, he has developed a fanatical band of followers who will die for him, never mind if he didn't remit their withholding taxes in some years. The government should study its cases against him very well, so that if it decides to move against him again, the rule of law would be upheld. Not this way where twice in as many months, it has looked so wimpy in enforcing a suspension order.

* * *

No less than the spokesperson of the Genuine Opposition has admitted that while GO comes out in surveys to have the edge in the senatorial race, at the congressional level it cannot hope to capture enough seats to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's impeachment. This is because in more than 70 percent of the House seats GO doesn't have candidates. This is especially true in Mindanao which Team Unity is assiduously combing for votes. For instance, Team Unity held a huge rally in Cagayan de Oro last week attended by some 25,000 people, a joint effort by Rep. Constantino Jaraula, Gov. Vicente Emano and various mayors, including Gingoog Mayor Ruthie Guingona, former Vice President Tito Guingona's wife, who's running for reelection under Lakas.

* * *

Ironically, instead of TU and GO slugging it out at the grassroots, often it's between Lakas and Kampi, which are both in the pro-GMA coalition. In many cases, their leaders are able to iron out kinks, but at times this is impossible and TU doesn't venture in such areas, afraid of getting caught in the crossfire. For instance, Davao del Norte's former governor, Rodolfo del Rosario, had set up Kampi earlier as a hedge in case his nephew-in-law, Rep. Tony Boy Floirendo, who is also allied with GMA, decided to run for the province's top post, too. Actually, Del Rosario wanted to field his son Anthony against incumbent Gov. Yayung Bautista of GO, who was once his vice governor, but when Tony Boy showed interest in that post, he decided to run for governor. At that point, Tony Boy deferred running in order not to present his 91-year-old father, banana king Antonio Floirendo, any problem (Dolfo is the elder Floirendo's brother-in-law). Instead, he fielded his nephew, Anton Floirendo Lagdameo, who's married to actress Dawn Zulueta, for his House seat.

* * *

The problem in Davao del Norte among the Floirendos and Del Rosarios was fixed up, even though Del Rosario, now running under Lakas, failed to disband Kampi. Today candidates of these two groups are fighting in the province. Today there will be two huge rallies in Davao—one in Panabo, Davao del Norte, sponsored by Del Rosario, and another in Davao City, with Mayor Rudy Duterte. But in .other places, the situation is not so friendly, so TU is avoiding them like the plague. One is Davao del Sur, where Rep. Douglas Cagas is running for governor under Lakas, against Rep. Claude Bautista of NPC, who is also allied with GMA. Dodo is fielding his Harvard-trained son, Mark, for his old House seat.

* * *

**Speaker Jose de Venecia, campaigning for his third term as representative of Pangasinan's 4th district, appears to be running an obstacle course, but it seems to only spur him to work harder. The lawyer of his opponent, Mayor Benjie Lim of Dagupan, challenged before the Comelec JDV's distribution of Lakas-CMD membership cards with a P110,000 insurance to party campaigners. The poll body, however, ruled recently that there is nothing illegal with this. In fact, the family of Lakas member Maria Magsano, 63, a health worker killed in a recent accident, received the cash benefit at a simple ceremony at JDV's Binloc residence, witnessed by Michael Rellosa, president and CEO of Fortune General Insurance Corp.**

* * *

JDV can be likened to a traveler who has roamed all over the world and made a huge success of himself, but who has now come to rediscover the simple joys of his people and hometown. Leaving his Binloc home sometimes as early as 6 a.m. for sorties, the Speaker would go to the remotest mountain villages near the border of La Union and then walk through the back alleys of Dagupan in the evening to hold rallies, where he encourages the folks to come up on stage and tell him what they need. And shyly they ask for a concrete road to the school, a day-care center, a water system for a small community, etc. Putting his arm around them, he asks the barangay captain to jot down their needs and promises to look for funds, to their great delight. These folks say they want to send their favorite son to the speakership one more time, and that Lim should wait for his turn in the House.

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# Comelec decision stinks

**AT LARGE**

*Rina Jimenez-David*

WHEN "ONLY" JOURNALISTS AND ACTIVISTS, including church workers, were getting killed, we heard the appropriate noises from authorities, including President Macapagal-Arroyo, but little by way of action or political will.

The President would, as always, order an "investigation" into the killings, disappearances, or snatchings, but even such high-powered inquiries would sooner or later peter out, withering from the lack of sustained official attention or resources so that investigators and law enforcers could really get to the bottom of such matters.

When protests mounted against Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, now retired, considering his track record of human rights abuses wherever he was assigned, he was neither reprimanded nor forced out of service. Instead, he was singled out for praise during the President's State of the Nation Address as a "defender" of democracy and a bane of insurgents. Now the retired general wants to insinuate his brand of democracy into Congress by running for a party-list post on a "national security" platform.

When the unofficial campaign season began and the first killings of candidates took place, I wondered if police and officials would finally get off their arses and put a stop to the violence. Maybe now, I thought, now that politicians and their bodyguards were the ones getting killed, maybe those responsible would get their heads from out of their behinds and start smelling the gunpowder. Well guess what, nearly 50 people have been killed since the outbreak of election season, 11 of them in the course of a single day, and still no one seems sufficiently upset about it.

* * *

**IN FACT, the Commission on Elections, which theoretically has authority over all law-enforcement agencies at this time, has called the 2007 election period so far "relatively peaceful."**

**I don't know if they're being sarcastic, or if the Comelec has become so inured to election violence, including institutional violence, that it will take a massacre to scare them out of their stupor.**

**Reelectionist Sen. Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan sent a text message on the wave of** election-related violence, noting that "this tolerance for election violence has turned our election process upside down." Responsibility falls squarely on the leadership of the Comelec, he says, "to end election violence by exercising and wielding its awesome powers over the candidates, including the power of disqualification."

From experience, I suppose, Pangilinan says that "when the cat is away the mice begin to play. We urgently need the presence of the Comelec in the field. We urge them to do a Haydee Yorac (who braved the notorious electoral battleground of Lanao and 'tamed' the warlord Ali Dimaporo) and have warring camps feel the awesome powers of the Comelec for them to behave and to arrest the free fall towards anarchy and more election-related violence."

Now I don't know if Kiko is the one being sarcastic, because the Comelec leadership seems to be more preoccupied these days twisting the law to suit their and their friends' needs. "Awesome powers," indeed. Awesome power to strip the poll body of the last remaining shreds of integrity and credibility it still enjoys.

* * *

THIS will surely happen if the Comelec en banc upholds the decision of its first division disqualifying reelectionist Naga City Mayor Jesse Robredo on grounds that he is not a Filipino citizen.

The decision itself is so shot full of holes it leaks like a colander. But that a division of the Comelec would issue just barely a week before elections quite frankly stinks.

Our columnist Solita Monsod has discussed the case, as well the decision of Robredo's wife to file her own candidacy for mayor of Naga as a fail-safe measure, in much greater detail in previous columns. Still, the lingering issue of Robredo's citizenship, owing to his having a grandfather born in China, is indicative of our national fear of the "foreigner," or at least of foreign blood.

Tessy Ang See, a leading light of the Chinoy community and outspoken as always, comments on the case against Robredo thus: "How can a Jesse Robredo, a Ramon Magsaysay awardee from the Philippines, who was born and educated as a Filipino, elected three terms as a mayor, finally be disqualified … because of his Chinese ancestry? Next, are we going to be asked to disclaim our national heroes for being of Chinese descent, too?"

* * *

**OF COURSE, this case is not really about citizenship or our country's draconian laws and policies on citizenship. Three times his political opponents have questioned Robredo's citizenship, and three times they have been rebuffed. This is about politics, and about the clout of a political clan in Bicol who feel constantly threatened (and shamed) by the presence of a young up-and-coming politician who shows one can be in public service and still serve with integrity and vision.**

**In any other country, a politician of Robredo's caliber would be honored with parades. Indeed, he has racked up an impressive array of awards and recognition. But his government has rewarded him instead with endless intrigue and now this adverse decision.**

**Tessy recounts that in the aftermath of typhoons Milenyo and Reming, she brought some 2,000 packs of relief goods and chose to send it to Naga, "confident that the mayor will be able to help identify" those most in need. The recipients, she recalled, were tearful in their gratitude for while their houses were devastated, they received hardly anything from the government "because our mayor belongs to the opposition."**

**That Robredo has been able to serve his constituents admirably despite the petty punishments meted on him by the administration makes me feel confident he will also be able to overcome this latest wrinkle.**

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# GSIS should treat teachers with respect

**COMMENTARY**

*Juan Miguel Luz*

"I AM COMPELLED TO SEEK (THE MEDIA'S) ASsistance because we, old-age pensioners in Cebu, are concerned about our long-delayed monthly pensions," one pensioner wrote the INQUIRER last February. Since the GSIS required the use of the eCard last January 2007, the pensioner went on, "most of my co-retirees have not received their pensions for at least three months now, as well as their 13th month pay and the survivorship benefits."

I have seen this and other similar complaints since my days in the Department of Education in late 2002. In March 2007, Ifugao pensioners rallied at the Nueva Vizcaya GSIS office to demand the release of their delayed pensions after the implementation of the eCard system. In January 2006, media in Bacolod City reported of complaints from GSIS members of the difficulties encountered in withdrawing their dividends using their eCards from Union Bank's lone ATM in the city.

The issue of poor service is compounded by an attitude of GSIS management and field office workers that borders on disrespect to outright contempt for teachers and pensioners who complain of such poor service.

The problem goes back to the computerization of GSIS as unveiled by GSIS general manager Winston Garcia in 2002.

Sound strategic management says that five things should be managed when major reform is effected: First, there should be clear goals. Second, there must be proper design of the reform system. Third, sound implementation is needed. Fourth, the reform should generate customer satisfaction. And lastly, the reform must be institutionalized.

Garcia is right to modernize GSIS and clean up what has been a dinosaur. Computerization is the right way to go. It will clean up membership profiles, keep track of payments and receipts, and better track customer records.

The design of the reform is where the problems begin. In an exchange between DepEd and GSIS in September 2003, DepEd agreed to the modernization goal but asked for system adjustments to address field realities and a transition period to effect the changes and to restructure the DepEd payroll system so that it could comply with the GSIS system.

The GSIS response? Our way or not at all.

The eCard is a case in point. True, checks can be forged. But a technology cannot be forced if the technology is not available to users.

In late 2002, DepEd moved to change its payroll system from checks to ATM. In early 2003, DepEd did a survey with the banking sector of all ATMs by town and city to match these with the location of teachers. The survey, followed by onsite visits to confirm how far schools were from ATMs, revealed that only 20 percent of all teachers (about 100,000) could be put on an ATM payroll system. Eighty percent of all teachers nationwide live in towns with no ATMs or live more than 30 minutes away from an existing machine.

Thus, the "one size fits all" GSIS eCard model cannot work here until the technology catches up. To force teachers and pensioners to travel to where an ATM is available to take out proceeds is a technology fix that is convenient to Garcia and GSIS officers but it grossly inconveniences teachers and pensioners.

Five years after Garcia's announcement of the computerization program, the problems in the field abound. If he had listened to the DepEd recommendations in 2003, these problems would have been minimized, if not eliminated altogether.

The GSIS public affairs office responds to complaints with excuses when adjustments to client concerns should be the proper response. But the GSIS is a monopoly and the "take-it-or-leave-it" attitude of Garcia is aped by field personnel who treat teachers and pensioners poorly.

By law, 21 percent of the value of a teacher's annual salary is paid as premium for the pension. From 1997 to 2004, the amount received by the GSIS was approximately P52 billion. This means that the total public school teacher contribution should be around P21 billion a year.

On top of this, teachers are heavy users of the system. Salary loans were estimated to have reached around P15 billion in 2004 along with another P15 billlion to P20 billion in housing loans. All this makes public school teachers the largest contributor to the GSIS and the biggest client group. One wonders why the GSIS chooses to mistreat teachers when this sector makes it the most profitable government corporation today.

No one should begrudge Garcia's attempt to modernize the GSIS, but this added value—profitability—is nullified as stakeholders are made poorer by it because they don't receive their benefits when they should. Disrespect of members has no place in the GSIS.

Sadly, teachers are not united in voice. Their representative on the GSIS board collects emoluments that are obscene by the teachers' salary standards but does not report to the sector at all.

Nothing is going to change given the current management. It will profess financial wizardry but disregard client satisfaction. This is akin to a doctor of unprecedented medical skill but whose manner is so crude as to kill the patient in the process of healing.

A Teacher, a party-list organization of genuine educators, includes teacher welfare in its platform. Among the reforms it will pursue in Congress is to amend the GSIS Act of 1997 for improvements to better serve teachers, pensioners and other government workers.

*Juan Miguel Luz is president of the International Institute of Rural Reconstruction and former undersecretary of the Department of Education (in charge of finance and administration).*

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# Dynasties

**YOUNG BLOOD**

*Eugenio Antonio E. Dig*

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.*—**Ed.**

ARTICLE II, SECTION 26 OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION states very clearly that "the State shall guarantee equal access to opportunities for public service, and prohibit political dynasties as may be defined by law." But it does not say what it means by "political dynasty." House Bill 5925 defines it as "the concentration, consolidation or perpetuation of public office and political power by persons related to one another," which is fair enough for me.

But without an enabling law, the intent of the Constitution is not being followed. But what is the violation if there is no law yet? Who says the family of a town mayor, who happens to be the brother of a congressman and a councilor and the father of the Sangguniang Kabataan president, is violating the Constitution for establishing a political dynasty? Who will argue that a mayor seeking the gubernatorial post and fielding his wife for mayor is building a political dynasty? No one, because the term has not been given a legal definition.

In the meantime, why forbid someone, who is a Filipino citizen, of legal age and able to read and write, from running for public office? What happens to "equal access to opportunity for public service" if some people are disallowed from running?

On the other hand, the presence of ruling families in some places discourages the entry of new politicians and limits the opportunity to hold public office to members of the dominant families. No one would bother to make the necessary physical, emotional, mental and financial investments during election campaigns when winning is a very remote possibility. Under the present conditions, and specially in local politics, people tend to vote for those who have become household names in their localities, have experience and, of course, the resources. The ruling families have all these.

Many officials argue that there is nothing wrong with political dynasties. In fact, they facilitate the delivery of services. For instance, a mayor would not have any problem asking for funds to set his livelihood projects from a congressman who happens to be his brother. Likewise, the mayors who supported the governor would get livelihood, health or infrastructure projects from the Office of the Governor.

But while they may facilitate the delivery of services to their own localities—and not every town or city—political dynasties actually monopolize the resources of local government units or, worse, the LGUs themselves. Ruling families are not likely to give priority to a livelihood project proposed by a councilor belonging to the minority, and the end result is the chances for reelection of the councilor is greatly diminished. On the other hand, the members of the ruling families (who make it a point announce their projects with giant streamers) can easily win election further strengthening the family's political foundation.

Members of these ruling families try to justify their monopoly on power by saying it is the people who decide to keep them in power through their votes. People vote for the candidates who possess qualities that could improve the quality of the voters' lives. It's not illegal to run for public positions because members of the ruling families are qualified. It's not illegal either if they are elected since the people gave their consent to be administered by ruling families.

But what they are really saying is that they deserve to monopolize government posts because theirs is a "family of leaders." A mayor, a congressman, a governor, a councilor and an SK president, belonging to one family are not members of a political dynasty. Instead, they are the hope, the heroes and the champion of good leadership to whom the people have entrusted their own lives. Ruling families are the messiahs who are willing to face the endless problems of their localities and rescue their constituents from poverty and improve their localities by building roads, schools, hospitals, etc.

The Philippines is so blessed to have so many messiahs. We have been fortunate to have ruling families whose members have the highly desired leadership skills. All the members of the ruling families are born leaders, and that is why they dominate the political arena.

The people are truly wise to have elected the members of such heroic families. They have put the members of such families on a pedestal and elected them to different posts, convinced that candidates belonging to the same family have similar qualities. If a mayor is good, his wife or a brother must be good as well.

Unfortunately the messiahs that the Filipinos have been waiting for do not belong to these "families of leaders" which have been occupying different elective posts. What we have are simply relatives who have been bequeathed power by the mayor, the governor or the congressman. They are merely the parts of a chain of a political dynasty.

In the next election, just as in previous ones, most candidates, especially for seats in the House of Representatives, are members of political dynasties. Some of them have really contributed to their localities, but most are merely part of a chain. They will win if Filipinos agree to continue to be represented by ruling families. But if the voters say they have had enough of such families, the members of ruling families won't win.

That decision lies in the hands of the voters. And I hope that our voters will choose candidates not because they are members of family dynasties but because they have the competence and the integrity to govern their localities or represent them in Congress.

*Eugenio Antonio E. Dig, 20, is a BA Public Administration graduate from the University of the Philippines-Diliman.*

**NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:**

*Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.*

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# 'The work is never done'

30 MAYS AGO, JOE BURGOS CAME out with his We Forum. I first heard of it from Sen. Gerry Roxas in mid-1977 when Sen. Eva Estrada hosted a meeting in San Juan. In time, Joe and his staff became our clients as victims of oppression.

On May 4, 2007, the Burgoses marched from the corner of Pioneer Street and Edsa to the People Power monument. Edith, Joe's widow, led the march, accompanied by a throng of supporters and sympathizers. One of her sons, Jayjay, has recently become a *desaparecido*. The lawyers who helped Joe in 1982-83 and who are still around joined the march.

We have to serve two generations of human rights victims. The work is never done. In December 1982, Col. Rolando Abadilla and company raided We Forum's office. Joe had "merely" been arrested (not "disappeared"). Feisty Edith stood her ground. Joker Arroyo and I, along with others, thought it was the end for us when Abadilla exploded and punched the wall in anger because she would not sign a document, on our advice. She proved to be a tough cookie at a difficult time. She still is.

25 years later, Uncle Jovy Salonga says Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Hermogenes Esperon are today's versions of Ferdinand Marcos and Fabian Ver during martial law.

A hero's son is abducted and the response may be muted by the numbness we all seem to feel. Marcos was kinder and gentler in that he did not make Joe "disappear."

Current Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez was an accused in the We Forum case because he wrote for it then.

He may yet rap Jayjay for being where he was abducted, at 1 p.m., not in some lonely mountain trail but in some crowded mall. A little irresponsible, Mr. Secretary? Please, don't, if only for old times' sake.

Pastor Martin Niemoller said after World War II: "When they came for the Jews, I wasn't a Jew, and I didn't speak up. And they came for the trade unionists and I wasn't a trade unionist, and I didn't speak up. Then they came for the Catholics, and I wasn't a Catholic and I didn't speak up. And then they came for me, and there wasn't anyone left to speak up."

—RENE SAGUISAG,
Mabini, ravslaw@mozcom.com

# Pampanga priest explains why he is running

ACHILLES CORTEZ EXpressed his misgivings about my entry into Pampanga politics. (INQUIRER, 4/21/07) I respect his opinion.

Allow me to say this again: I am running for public office not out of a personal ambition nor a craving for power. I have always loved my priestly ministry and found fulfillment in it. It is out of this love that I heeded the call to a more concrete expression of my priestly vocation—of serving as a shepherd to God's people, especially the poorest of the poor.

Before I decided to join the gubernatorial race, two powerful political figures had expressed their intentions to run for the highest public office in the province. One was linked to quarrying abuses and fund mismanagement; the other, to *jueteng*.

Moral decay is gnawing at the very soul of Kapampangans.

Catholics clamored for a third candidate. When several prospective candidates turned down the challenge because they believed they could not match the strength of the two figures, my name was brought up, citing my background in community development.

A long and agonizing process of discernment followed. Had other Kapampangans taken up the challenge, I would have continued to "focus on teaching the values that the Church considers important for people to effectively respond to life's everyday crises," as Cortez would have it.

The desperate situation in Pampanga calls for, in my case, a more concrete expression of my priestly ministry other than preaching the Good News. It calls for witnessing and serving, too. Christ Himself did not only preach and pray; He also served and worked to bring justice and free the oppressed. How can the Good News ring of salvation if moral degradation and social injustice are left to prevail?

I urge Cortez to look at this development in Pampanga from a perspective other than the age-old injunction on separation of Church and State. If I win, the logical consequence of assuming public office will be the suspension of my priestly faculties, precisely to keep the Church from being accused of violating the constitutional separation of Church and State. That provision simply makes sure that the Church does not put up a state, and the state does not put up a Church.

The crusade that we Kapampangans are waging is more than the issue of a priest's entry into politics. It is not about the Church's invasion of matters belonging to the State. It is about Kapampangans uniting and standing up against bad governance and the social ills of *jueteng* and quarrying abuses. It is about reclaiming the dignity lost through many years of indifference and apathy. For once, Kapampangans are standing up to reclaim what is rightfully theirs—a just, moral, peaceful and progressive society. I can only take this as a positive development that can further our growth toward a greater and a more socially-responsible Catholic faith.

Welcome to a new era in Philippine politics!

—FR. ED PANLILIO,
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# Kids safer with hostage-taker Ducat

MANUEL L. QUEZON III IS A DEcent and intelligent man, this much is obvious. What's wrong with him, however, is that he's more decent than everyone else and he is possessed of intellectual properties very few Filipinos appreciate. (Pinoys love smart people but not the sort MLQIII is.)

His analysis of the hostage-taking of school kids (INQUIRER, 3/29/07) reveals a kind of blindness to the reality of how most Filipinos are raised. You see, when one of the victims' parent said that she sympathized with Ducat for what he did, it wasn't because she wasn't a decent woman. You see, unlike MLQIII, she was only being "real."

I understand why Ducat put those children at risk. He had a point to make, he had access to them and, for a hostage-taker, children are the best hostages. They are easier to control than adults. As you must have seen, Ducat was at it alone. The only way to ensure that he could get his message across without hurting anyone was to kidnap children.

Even more important: I understand why a parent would seem incapable of being angry at Ducat. Being kidnapped by a grenade-toting guy is a vacation compared to being with parents who threaten their children not only with corporal punishment but also with death. I have friends who, while growing up, were beaten up so badly by their parents that fraternity hazing seemed like a cakewalk to them. I myself had a gun stuck to my face when I was nine years old. Don't worry, this is normal in ordinary Filipino families. Violence and even the threat of death are typical Filipino parental techniques.

Well, typical for most of us. But not for MLQIII, apparently. Having kids exposed to mortal danger is nothing new in this country of bad public infrastructure, like overcrowded school facilities, and roads without sidewalks (our kids walk to school in the gutter in constant risk of being sideswiped by *kaskaseros*).

I live in two worlds. The first is the Philippines where the democratic facade is propped up by behind-the-scenes murders of troublemakers, a world where a well-respected individual (like Ducat) always gets the benefit of the doubt and more, and where the poor and unconnected and the "disrespected" fear law enforcers and lawyers and priests as much as they fear rich people's goons. The other world I live in is a world made up of "McGyver," "Baywatch," and, more significantly, the world of "The Wonder Years," "L.A. Law," "Picket Fences," and, now, Jay Leno and Conan O'Brien.

One world is becoming as repressive of the poor and the unconnected as Burma is; the other is what Americans like to call "dramatic" and "comedic" entertainment.

—BRIAN BROTARLO,
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# Failure of Catholic education

CONRADO DE QUIROS IS ONE of the few columnists who have the courage to denounce the anomalies of the Arroyo administration. He does not mind the dangers he faces in his crusade. (I hope his colleagues will join him and also refuse to be intimidated. They shouldn't leave plunderers to freely ravage our country, and spread immorality, injustice and dishonesty.) His March 28 column ("Presumption") reminded me of a remark made by one of our speakers in a general assembly of the Couples for Christ. He said we cannot expect much help or initiative from our government because the schools that educated the officials who are running the government failed to make them sensitive, responsible and conscientious persons; indirectly, these schools contributed to the poverty and corruption in our society.

It is quite ironic that the Philippines which has the biggest number of Catholics in Asia has been found to be the most corrupt nation in the region. If you look at the educational background of our government and elected officials, most of them studied and/or graduated from the country's most prestigious schools like UP, Ateneo, La Salle, Miriam, St. Scholastica, San Beda, Assumption, and other exclusive schools ran by nuns, priests and religious orders. It is but normal to expect the graduates of these schools, like GMA, to be more conscientious, upright, righteous and morally inclined to uphold truth, social justice and peace. But contrary to the saying that a good tree bears good fruit, the famous products of these schools do not reflect the values that the institutions teach and stand for.

It appears that our high officials in the government were not surprised, much less bothered, by the news that the Philippines has become the most corrupt in Asia. It is clear that the "best" of our schools have failed to instill good sense in hearts and minds of their graduates.

The nuns and alumni of the Assumption College are surely aware of the rampant corruption in government and the widespread poverty in our society. Otherwise, they have no business in doing the work of Jesus Christ who has so much concern for the poor. Or have they become so blind and oblivious to the plight of the poor? Maybe it's time for them to be reminded of this line from Psalm 49: "In prosperity, people lose their good sense; they become no better than dumb animals." The Assumption nuns and alumni may be sending the wrong signal to their infamous alumna by inviting her to head their delegation to Rome—to continue the good works?

—VINCE ENRIQUEZ,
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# Now, it's Garci trying to protect his own votes

**From page A1**

Election Commissioner Virgilio "Garci" Garcillano is making every effort to protect his votes.

Running as an independent candidate in the first congressional district of Bukidnon, he vows that if elected, his first privilege speech in Congress will deal with the "Hello Garci" tape—a recording of his supposed phone conversations with Ms Arroyo that nearly brought down her administration.

The former commissioner of the Commission on Elections said he had prepared three sets of voters' lists and asked his lawyer-friends to brief the watchers he would be hiring.

"I will make sure that I have two watchers in each precinct so that when counting comes...," Garcillano said in a recent interview.

"One of them must stand beside the BEI (Board of Election Inspectors) chair to make sure that the BEI reads the correct name and the other one should ensure that what is written is what is being read."

He may not like being called "Garci" but when he filed his certificate of candidacy, he wrote it down as his other name, so that votes for "Garci" would be counted in his favor.

When he filed his certificate of candidacy, about 80 vehicles carrying his supporters snaked their way to the provincial Comelec office in Malaybalay City. With him were his wife Grace, daughter Christine—and the Viva Hot Babes led by Gwen Garci.

"It would be easier for the voters to recall my name and write it down on their ballots," he said.

Garcillano's campaign jingle, which he claimed was composed by his nephews, is sung to the tune of "Hello Dolly," a musical hit in the 1960s.

As for his campaign schedule, Garcillano wakes up as early as 4:30 in the morning, sips a cup of coffee, then drives to his headquarters 2 kilometers from his house here.

"During regular days, meaning my day-to-day activities without the campaign, I wake up early and walk toward the farm as a form of exercise. Now I drive going to the headquarters to check with the volunteers on their itinerary for the day," he said.

Then he goes back to his house to prepare for his sorties in the towns of Malitbog, Pangantucan, Kalilangan, Libona, Manolo Fortich, Talakag, Sumilao and Baungon.

Gone are the days of hiding.

Gone, too, are the days when, after he reemerged into public view, he became a media phenomenon with television lights trained on him daily while he confounded Congress with his inflexible denials that he was the man speaking on the tape with a woman who sounded like Ms Arroyo.

One of Garcillano's opponents in the congressional contest is Ma. Lourdes Acosta of the Liberal Party. A newcomer to politics, she is the sister of Rep. Nereus Acosta, who is running for governor and facing a possibly difficult fight with Jose Ma. Zubiri of the Lakas-CMD.

Another opponent of Garcillano is Candido Pancrudo of the Lakas-CMD, who ran and lost in the 2004 polls.

## No campaign manager

Garcillano said he expects a landslide win in his hometown Baungon, which has some 15,000 voters, but he still has to woo voters in six other contentious towns.

Garcillano does not have a campaign manager. Instead, he has tapped other independent local candidates for support.

"I am glad that they are responsive to my requests," he said. "Tapping them is the only way to run my campaign easily. It would be difficult for me to organize caucuses or rallies if I don't have supporters in each of the seven towns."

He claimed that some administration candidates had signified their support, even junking their own congressional candidates.

## Incessant denials

He prefers caucuses over rallies.

"There is interaction when you speak to leaders or to a small audience. I feel it is more personal than speaking to a larger crowd," he said.

But Garcillano is no seasoned politician. His words may be clear but he lacks the power of public speaking.

In his sorties, Garcillano makes it a point to tell people that he was never involved in the alleged rigging of votes in Lanao del Sur.

"It's hard to recall what happened—how my family suffered ... and this is the reason why I opted to run," he said.

Garcillano vowed to file cases against those behind the wiretapping scandal.

## Mr. Congressman

And he promises to work to ease poverty in his district.

"With my proper connections, I can ask for more projects for the district. I don't want to promise a lot but I will show you how these actions should work," he said in one caucus.

Asked where he gets his campaign funds, Garcillano said: "You may not believe it, they came all the way from Manila."

As he always had and assuming that he wins, Garci will stick to his testimony that he was not involved in rigging the 2004 elections when he delivers his first privilege speech in Congress.

But this time, he said, things will be different. He will no longer be speaking as a witness in a congressional probe but as a member of Congress.

# Why Vilma succeeded, Nora failed in politics

**From page A1**

your plans for Mother's Day?"

Santos glanced at her husband, reelectionist Sen. Ralph Recto, across the table. "Where will you be on Sunday?"

One word to describe their days and nights of late—"hectic." But, Mayor Vi hastened to add, "We manage." She did not elaborate.

Asked when they were last together, not counting hours when they slept, she figured, "Day before yesterday."

That was not a complaint. "We don't expect too much of one another," she explained. "He has a big campaign to run, and I am focused on my own. Not once have I gone with him this year, in fact."

Although the senator constantly asks about her political jaunts, he can't join her, either. "Luis (her son by Edu Manzano) does when he can, though," Santos said. Today, the young actor participates in his mother's motorcade around the province.

"Luis is very busy himself," Santos added, sounding apologetic. "I try not to impose, but he says he doesn't mind. Besides it's so much more fun with him." Luis Manzano is a music veejay and an upcoming comedian with a current hit movie.

## Ralph's clothes

Given this state of affairs at home, Santos said she still found time, believe it or not, to mind her husband's wardrobe—"what he should wear, what he should bring on his trips"—his minimum requirement at the moment, she noted, along with one other thing: "That I listen to his speeches."

Which she does very willingly, she said, especially because it was one of the ways she learned from him.

"Public speaking as a politician and talking to the people as an *artista* are two different things," Santos pointed out. "I've also asked him to listen to all my speeches since I went into public service."

Well, all except one. "Oh, yes, when I declared my candidacy, the words in that announcement were all mine," she recalled, proudly.

"When I asked Ralph later what he thought, he said, 'It was good, but a little strong.' Actually, it would have been stronger, had I not sat up the whole night before deleting this and that from all the things that I wrote down while I was still very emotional."

## No better sign

Once she wrapped her mind around it, Santos believed her gubernatorial candidacy was meant to be. "Especially because Ricky (Recto, her husband's brother, who originally opposed her) eventually gave way," she said. "What better sign could I ask for?"

Speaking of signs, it's true that her "yes, you should" moment came while she worked the treadmill. She recounted: "I had asked for a week, right? All I did was write down everything that I felt, exercise, pray. One day, I was on the treadmill, dripping, and still I hadn't decided. Then a letter came. Without stepping down the machine, I read it; it was my answer."

She begged off from disclosing the letter's content. "Let me just assure you it was from someone whom I had no reason to doubt."

Recto said he witnessed that week, and confirmed that his wife was praying so intently, he didn't dare interrupt: "She's saying she learned certain things from me. Well, that is something I learned from her—how to be prayerful, but also how to be pragmatic."

He teased his wife: "Of course, it's inevitable that you should be my teacher ..."

She rolled her eyes: "What he's about to say now is, 'After all, when you won your first acting award, I hadn't been born.'"

One of the journalists assured Mayor Vi: "We know you're older, but look, the senator's caught up—he looks your age already."

Recto wouldn't let this pass: "That only means I'm the better caregiver."

## Nora Aunor

Why did she think she succeeded in politics, where her arch rival in the movies, Nora Aunor, failed?

"I think it boils down to priorities and direction," Santos said. "Also, we both had very bad times, financially; I guess I was lucky to have bounced back when I did."

Smiling, the senator offered another explanation: "She met me."

Being a movie star has served her quite well in office, Santos said. "*Maraming nagbabayad ng taxes, at marami sa kanila, gusto muna ako ma*-meet. And when some people come to ask me for something, even if I can't give what they want, they still leave with a smile on their faces. But I really hope that's not the only reason they reelected me," she added.

Only a week before the elections and they both looked a little too relaxed for comfort.

Santos had a ready explanation: "That's because I don't have plans beyond this. If I win, that would be great. If not, I'd have already done well at the level that I'd chosen to serve."

The best part about being mayor of Lipa, she said, was having the macho men of the city give her—"a woman, *artista pa*"—respect and trust as a leader. "Seventy-two barangay captains, *puro barako, ha*, acknowledging what this little woman did for the city. That's something money can't buy. Legacy *ko na 'yon*."

## Batangueña at heart

Not to say that, just because she has become a Batangueña at heart (she's from Pampanga), she has also become *barako*. "When I got a death threat after a drug lab in Lipa was raided and shut down, I almost dropped the phone, and I shook all over," she said.

Santos is pretty confident about her and her husband's chances. "The surveys are good, and we're working hard," she pointed out.

She wouldn't speak for him, but she insisted that life, if she missed her present target, would pretty much be fulfilling, nevertheless.

"I could make more movies, maybe even do a stage play, such as one that the Cultural Center has been proposing to me," she said.

To which her husband replied, "Yes, you should make a movie this year, I think you can."

Obviously, Santos jested, things would remain the same at home: "*Siya pa rin ang hari, pero ako ang alas*."

Also, it's clear, she would continue being a dedicated parent to 11-year-old Ryan Christian, who's "*artista na, politiko pa yata*."

Recto concurred: "He greets people with a firm handshake and a pat on the shoulder—and he's just a boy."

Santos reported: "Last October, in school (La Salle, Greenhills), *nag*-grand slam *'yon*. He won golds in the oratorical contest, interpretative reading ... and *balagtasan*!"

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# PETPLANS NEWS

Vol. I. No. 2

May 2007

# Court approves conversion plan

## Trust fund grows from P2.6 B to P3.04 B; Large bank to manage fund independently

**The Makati Regional Trial Court has approved PETPlans' conversion plan under which each of its pre-need plans will become an Enhanced Value Plan (EVP) representing a share in its P3.038 trust fund and other value benefits.**

The fund, under the firm's prudent and judicious management, has remained intact and from its P2.6 B value in June 2006, it has grown by P400 M from June last year to March 2007 and continues to grow. Under the approved conversion plan, the fund will be managed solely and independently by the Trust Department of one of the largest commercial banks.

Judge Cesar Untalan of the Makati RTC handed down the court decision approving in full the recommendations of the court-appointed Receiver, Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion, embodied in PETPlans' modified conversion plan.

PETPlans President and CEO Lorenzo T. Ocampo said the conversion of the pre-need plans into an EVP is "an honorable victory for PETPlans and its planholders and strengthens the firm's position that the best way forward is a departure from the counter-productive conditions in the industry."

Ocampo noted that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) posed no objections to PETPlans' modified conversion plan and has initiated substantial changes in the regulations that govern the pre-need industry.

He said that until the date of conversion, PETPlans had been paying benefits for every single pre-need plan that had become due.

"PETPlans lives and breathes, and will continue to serve the best interests of its planholders," he said.

### PETPlans urged to remain in Pre-Need

The Court has encouraged PETPlans to continue its pre-need business as this will help restore public confidence in the industry.

Ensuring the continuance and survival of pre-need companies will save jobs in the industry and benefit more families in its downstream economy. The court cited economic data that said for every job lost, at least 29 other people are adversely affected.

*Next Steps*

## WHAT'S IN STORE FOR PLANHOLDERS

As planholders, your pre-need contracts will be replaced with a fund Transaction Receipt which will be your proof of ownership of share in the PETPlans trust fund.

The TRs will be sent directly to your given addresses via registered mail within three months from June 1, 2007. If you do not receive your TR within the said 3-month period, please contact or email PETPlans' Head Office.

With the conversion plan's approval, PETPlans can now begin the process of computing the pro-rata share of each planholder in the trust fund. Partially paid planholders that were current as of June 23, 2006 will be informed of their termination values as per contract. Fully paid planholders will know their pro-rata share of the trust fund. In principle, the greater and earlier the amounts paid, the greater will be the share.

Simultaneously, the Company will also begin unifying the funds into one account for more efficient management and administration. Once the pro-rata shares have been computed and the funds unified, TRs can be printed and released to planholders beginning June this year.

Planholders whose plans lapsed before June 23, 2006 must reinstate their plans should they wish to receive a share in the conversion.

The Transaction Receipt may already be exchanged for cash anytime. However, if redeemed within three years from the effectivity of the conversion program, it will be subjected to the application of an early conversion factor. This reduces the redemption value of the TR from 10% to 30% within the specified period.

**Planholders must update their mailing addresses, contact numbers and email addresses through the Hot Lines and email address stated in the box on the right.**

### *'Many advantages in new plan'*

The approved conversion plan has several advantages for planholders, PETPlans President and CEO Lorenzo T. Ocampo said upon receiving notice of the court approval for the innovative plan.

Ocampo

"Unlike ordinary pre-need plans, the Enhanced Value Plan will not lapse, has no pre-set instalments and it is up to plan-holders if they want to put in additional investments. There is no set maturity dates for the EVP, and the planholder has the discretion to continue or withdraw from it.

"There is no set maturity value. All earnings of the fund will be credited to the planholders without PETPlans taking part in the earnings. Also, 15% of PETPlans' net income after tax will be contributed to the EVP fund."

The approved conversion plan is "the most transparent and liquid way forward for PETPlans' planholders," Lorenzo said.

The EVP will actually have a higher value as it will have two value enhancers: a) the earnings of the unified trust fund which may range from 8% to 12% per year on the average; and b) the annual contributions of PETPlans to the EVP fund.

**HOT LINES**

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## Abra's biggest private army traced to gov

BANGUED, ABRA—ARMED FOLLOWERS OF Gov. Vicente Valera and his ally, Mayor Edwin Crisologo of Tineg town, comprise two-thirds of the identified private armies in this province, according to a classified police report.

The report said the groups identified with Valera had 25 members and were led by a barangay captain while those linked to Crisologo had 54 members.

Abra has 10 "partisan armed groups" (PAGs) with 117 members, the report said. The information was based on results of an investigation made last year by Task Force Abra and the police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

Congressional candidate, Mayor Cecilia Seares-Luna of Lagayan town, has seven members in her PAG headed by her son, Jendricks Luna, who is running for mayor to replace her.

Luna lost six supporters, including village chief Romero Guyang of Ba-i, in an ambush in her town on May 4. Also killed were Eduardo Guyang, Feliman Caleflores, Jeson Battalao, Bali Rubeo and Darwin Sitnaen.

Lorenzo Guyang, Armenio Ayab and Roderick Guyang were wounded and undergoing treatment at the Seares Clinic here.

Luna accused Valera, who is also running in the lone district of Abra, of masterminding the ambush.

The police report said gubernatorial candidate Eustaquio "Kit" Bersamin did not have an armed group.

"My only protection is this," said Bersamin, referring to the medallion of Padre Pio, which he carries with him in his campaign.

Bersamin, younger brother of slain Rep. Luis Bersamin, said he did not need a gun in this election although Task Force Abra provided him with a security force.

According to the classified report, the Valera groups were formed to "facilitate the continuance of the political ambition of the governor."

"It is reported that they are harassing the voters who are known by them as not supportive to the governor," the report said.

The Crisologo group was formed to promote the political ambition of the mayor, it said.

Crisologo was the municipal treasurer when then Mayor Clarence Benwaren was shot dead inside a church in Laguna on Oct. 29, 2002.

Lenin Benwaren, Clarence's younger brother who is now running for mayor against Crisologo, said his brother was killed because their town has one of the highest internal revenue allotments due to its land area.

Peñarrubia Mayor Antonio Domes-ag has three PAG members, the report said.

Domes-ag, a Valera ally, was charged with violating the total gun ban after long firearms were seized from his house last week.

San Juan Mayor Medel Taverner has 14 PAG members, the report said.

The Elveña group, with 10 members, is headed by Tayum Mayor Rogelio Elveña, who is finishing his last term, it said. His wife Jovita is running to replace him.

On the other hand, Luna's ally, Dominick Valera (no relation to the governor) has six PAG members headed by a barangay captain in Lagayan. Dominick Valera is running for mayor of Bangued, the capital town.

Acting Mayor Joseph Bernos of La Paz town has four PAG members, the report said.

Bernos replaced his brother, Marc Ysrael Bernos, who was shot dead in February 2006.

Last in the PAG list for Abra is Bucloc Mayor Mailed Molina, who is running for the lone congressional seat in Abra.

Molina, who heads a faction of the Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army, has an "undetermined" number of PAG members, the report said. Frank Cimatu, Inquirer Northern Luzon

**SOLDIERS** guard a road leading to the house of Abra Gov. Vicente Valera following a spate of election-related killings in the province.

LEONCIO BALBIN JR./INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

## Clark airport extortion by BI men probed

CLARK FREEPORT—A NUMBER of immigration personnel at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport here may be preying on Filipino travelers, extorting P4,000-P6,000 each from those they suspect to be illegally leaving for jobs in Macau or Hong Kong.

Victor Jose Luciano, president and chief executive officer of Clark International Airport Corp. that manages the DMIA, confirmed receiving complaints about the supposed racket that reportedly began in 2006 when budget flights became regular.

"There is currently an investigation," he said, declining to give details.

A reader, writing by e-mail, told the INQUIRER about the supposed racket after he met several victims while waiting at the Macau airport last month on his way to Clark.

"A woman told me about her harrowing experience of having to pay immigration officials at the DMIA to allow her two relatives to board a flight going to Macau. They have valid Philippine passports and plane tickets," the source said.

"It turned out that this was the third time she had this experience. (They were) forced to pay immigration personnel P4,000 to P6,000 (each) so they could be allowed to get out of the country," he added.

Jess Bunag, Bureau of Immigration chief in Clark, said a recent investigation done by his office showed that his personnel were "not involved in any irregularities."

Some members of the airport police were behind the extortion racket, he said. "In fact, some (airport policemen) have been reassigned," he said in a phone interview.

"It is unfortunate that the bureau's personnel are being blamed," Bunag said. The bureau has only four staff members at the DMIA, working on straight shifts from 9 a.m. to 3 a.m. daily, he said.

"They hardly leave their stations," he said.

Luciano said the reassignment of DMIA security personnel was a regular activity and added that the investigation covered them as well.

"We are exerting all efforts to stop the scheme. Our Filipino compatriots should be treated fairly," he said.

"The reason I've decided to spread this e-mail is to help our poor overseas Filipino workers, supposedly the unsung heroes of our ailing economy, and hopefully to put a stop to this shameful act … We undergo great personal sacrifices by going abroad not knowing what fate awaits us in a foreign land. *Pagkatapos dagdag pahirap pa ang haharapin natin sa mga corrupt na* empleyado *ng ating pamahalaan*," the source said. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

DISQUALIFY BANTAY
AKBAYAN
DISQUALIFY BANTAY
AKBAYAN
DISQUALIFY BANTAY
AKBAYAN

**MEMBERS** of Bayan Muna and Akbayan party-list groups demand the disqualification of the party-list group Bantay for allegedly being a front of the Arroyo administration.

JOAN BONDOC

## Bayan Muna says Army harassing group's campaign in E. Visayas

**By Joey A. Gabieta**
*Inquirer Visayas*

TACLOBAN CITY—BAYAN MUNA REP. Teddy Casiño asked the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in Eastern Visayas to look into the alleged harassment committed by soldiers against their supporters.

Casiño cited an incident in Hilongos town, where soldiers identified to be members of the Bravo Company of the 43rd Infantry Battalion allegedly destroyed their campaign posters in a common poster area. The incident took place at around 9 p.m. on Saturday and involved about 10 of their supporters, he said.

"Based on the information we received from them (Bayan Muna supporters), one of the four soldiers, who were in uniform, pulled [out] his .45 cal. pistol [and pointed it at] them," Casiño, who was in Leyte for a campaign sortie, told the INQUIRER.

He claimed that the soldiers also endorsed party-list groups identified with the administration.

Casiño said similar incidents happened in Mahaplag, Baybay and Inopacan, all in the western part of Leyte. These areas are under the 43rd IB based in Sogod, Southern Leyte, and led by Lt. Col. Mario Lacurom.

Lacurom denied Casiño's allegations. The military does not engage in partisan politics, he said.

"We never tear down any posters or any campaign materials of any political candidates, affiliations or party-list nor campaigning any candidates. We are apolitical and nonpartisan," Lacurom said.

## Only 1 forest guard for every 4,000 ha

LUCENA CITY—THE SERIOUS LACK of and ill-equipped government forest guards has aggravated the destruction of the country's remaining forests.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources has only one forest guard for every 4,000 hectares of forests.

"And that forest guard faces illegal loggers and poachers who boast of high-powered firearms, highly paid lawyers, and highly placed protectors," said Reyes during necrological rites for slain environment agent Audy Angchangco.

"The same situation confronts us when it comes to defending our rivers, marine reserves and other protected areas."

Reyes said many of the country's forest rangers are now old and are no longer capable of climbing mountains. Some were assigned to do clerical jobs.

Reyes said the inherent risk of the job had already claimed the lives of around 35 government environment protectors across the country in the line of duty.

The latest was Angchangco, who was murdered by still unidentified gunmen on April 22 in front of his house on the outskirts of Lucena.

He had 11 bullet wounds in the body.

He was buried at the Libingan ng mga Bayani and accorded full military honors on orders of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The honors stressed the growing importance of environmental protection in the country, Reyes said.

He noted that Chief Justice Reynato Puno had recently declared that the country's national security and human rights were more threatened by environmental disaster than by terrorism.

"The Chief Justice warned that more of our countrymen will suffer or perish if we do not take immediate steps to save our seas and forests from despoliation by the greedy few," said Reyes.

"In other words, tens of thousands die each year from contaminated water, polluted air, floods and landslides or collectively due to environmental degradation."

He added: "Those who killed Audy with guns will continue killing more people while they remain free, for in their hands chainsaws become weapons of mass destruction."

Angchangco was a key figure in the DENR's successful operations that resulted in the confiscation of 34,014 pieces of hot logs worth P21.1 million.

Just before his murder, he was working to stop illegal logging activities in the Agusan provinces.

Environment Undersecretary Roy Kyamko warned that "the issues and problems in the environment have become politicized through all these years."

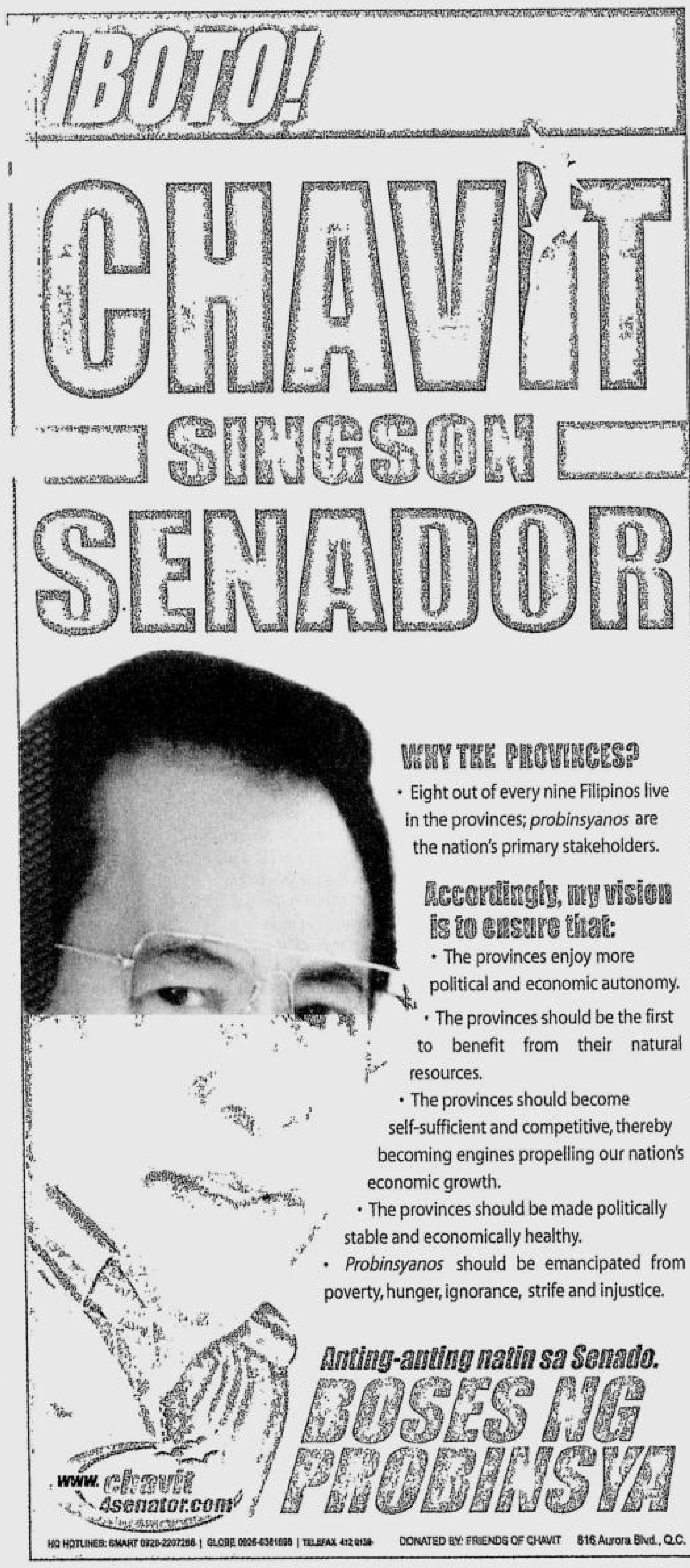
"The wars we have waged and are still waging do not only need 'bullets' from the technical experts but also 'ammunition' for political strategists," said Kyamko.

He said the modus operandi of environmental criminals "have become more and more politicized."

"What is now at stake is not only the future of the environment but also the future of our enforcement," he said.

Kyamko vowed that Angchangco's death would not be in vain.

"It will make us fight even more to finish this war. *May kasabihan nga tayo na 'Ang asong nasusugatan ay lalong tumatapang'* (A wounded dog gets more ferocious). For the environmental criminals and their cohorts, we in the law enforcement sector will continue pursuing them," he said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*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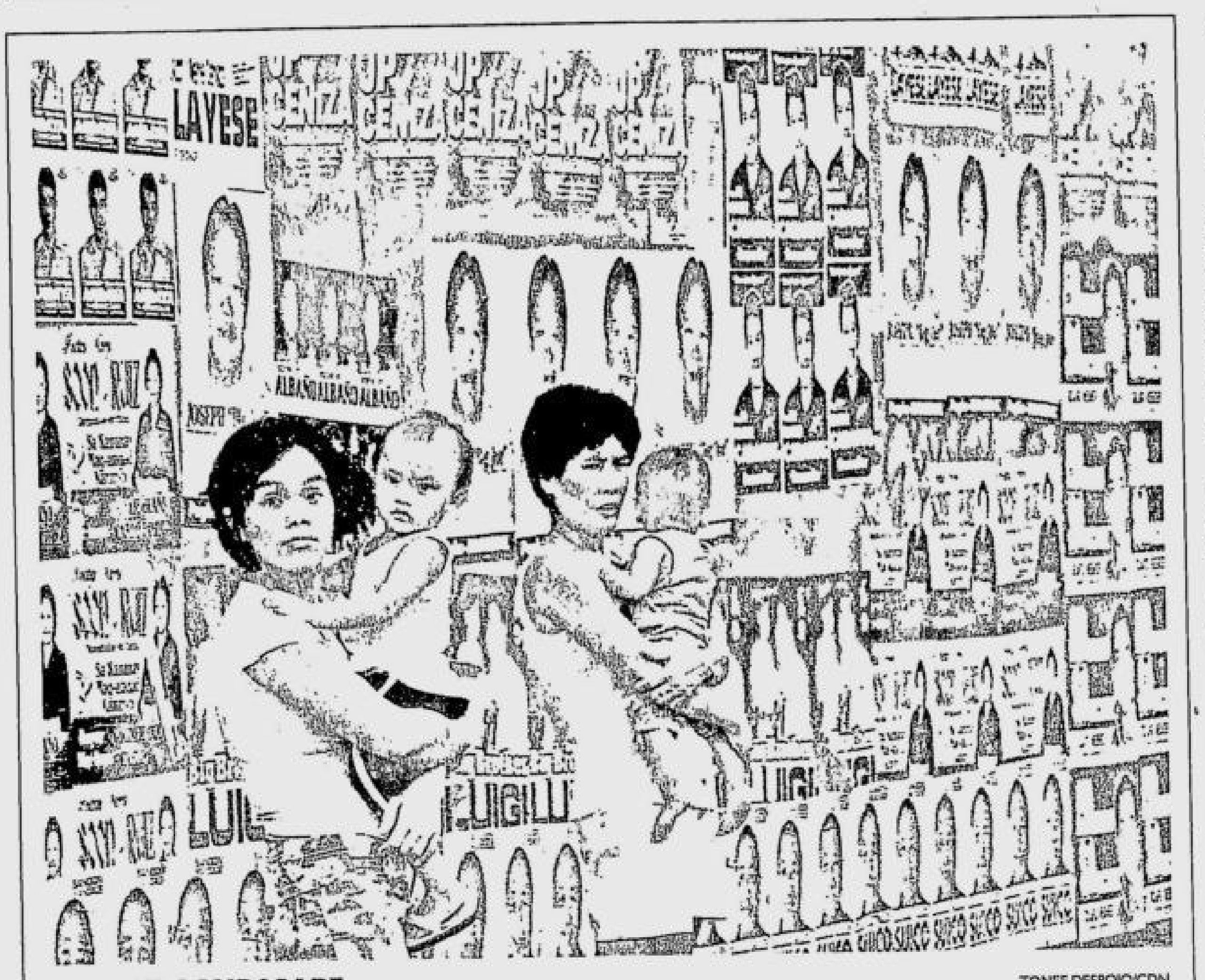


**ALTERED LANDSCAPE**

TONEE DESPOJO/CDN

**Women from Ibabao, Mandaue City bring their babies out for sunning but in a landscape altered by posters of candidates running for various positions in the city.**

# 'Operation Courage' starts in Pampanga vs poll fraud

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A WEEK TO THE May 14 elections and amid cases of alleged vote-buying, a priest running for governor in Pampanga launched "Operation Courage" on Sunday to help in what he called ongoing efforts of voters to ensure a fraud-free election in the province.

"There are many stories of courage already," Fr. Eddie Panlilio said in a statement.

"Voters need to be helped in resisting attempts to stop them from voting, to exchange their votes for money or favors or to cow them into fear," he said.

He started the campaign on the eve of the 65th death anniversary of Chief Justice Jose Abad Santos through a 600-vehicle motorcade around the towns of Guagua, Sasmuan, Lubao, Floridablanca, Sta. Rita and Porac in the province's second district.

Mobile sound systems played a recording of his messages in which he urged voters "not to be afraid."

"Let us assert our right to choose the leaders we want. Let us vote according to our conscience," went the message. Panlilio said the campaign was still part of his group's "crusade for moral leadership and good governance."

"Operation Courage," he said, was launched as reports persisted that Board Member Lilia Pineda, also a candidate for governor, and her campaigners continued to herd people to big assemblies where they were supposedly given between P200 and P500.

Pineda had denied giving away money during these assemblies. She said she gathered people from remote villages to "give them importance and chance to hear my platform of government."

Pineda, in a telephone interview, said she would fight fair in this year's elections.

"Like in the 19 years I was in office, I would not buy votes or threaten people. If people should choose me it has to be on their free will," she said.

Panlilio said his coordinators have reported being harassed by barangay officials loyal to Pineda. He said Pineda's campaigners have approached families who have displayed his posters in front of their houses and urged them to vote for Pineda instead. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

# Disqualification hangs over De Venecia bid for new term

**By Gabriel Cardinoza**
**and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes**
*Inquirer Northern Luzon*

DAGUPAN CITY—SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA Jr. is facing a disqualification case before the Commission on Elections here after supporters of his opponent, Mayor Benjamin Lim, accused him of vote-buying and violations of the Fair Elections Act.

"We were emboldened to really file it now because of several antecedent events," lawyer Francisco Baraan III, who represented the complainants, told reporters.

The complaint was signed by Floro Servito, Virgilio Jimenez, Rodolfo Cave and Maximo Cuison III, all residents and registered voters here. They said De Venecia had been distributing accident insurance cards to voters in the fourth district "with no other purpose but to induce the voters-recipients to vote for [De Venecia] during the May 14 elections."

De Venecia dismissed the case as "foolishness."

When reached by the INQUIRER through his mobile phone, De Venecia said "there was nothing wrong or illegal with [it] because the membership cards with insurance benefits were issued to members of Lakas-CMD."

The cards carry an insurance of P100,000 for accidental death and P10,000 for disablement.

Baraan said the complainants had "evidence to show that the distribution of the insurance cards was not for Lakas-CMD members only."

"The cards were distributed only in the fourth district of the province, and these were being given only in this election period," he added. Aside from this city, the fourth district consists of the towns of Mangaldan, San Fabian, Manaoag and San Jacinto.

De Venecia said the cards were distributed nationwide to 2.75 million people.

Lakas-CMD provincial chair Vice Gov. Oscar Lambino, however, said he had not distributed any insurance card in the province.

"It's being given at random and indiscriminately to all qualified voters on May 14. For example, senior citizens, barangay health workers, government employees, *mga nasa bahay, mga istambay, kahit na sino, binibigyan niyan* (household members, bystanders, everybody is given)," Baraan said.

Three of the complainants said they received the insurance cards even if they were not Lakas-CMD members and that they were not recruited or trained as De Venecia poll watchers.

"So, it's a deception, *yong sinasabi nila* that the insurance cards are being distributed to party members and to those being trained as watchers for JDV (De Venecia)," Baraan said.

The complainants also said the Speaker allegedly violated the Fair Elections Act when his interview was allegedly aired repeatedly in the community channel of the Urban Satellite Vision (USATV) cable television here, which is owned by the family of Belen Fernandez, a vice mayoral candidate and staunch De Venecia ally.

"They are replaying for several weeks the De Venecia interview, which ran for more than one hour per airing. It is a clear violation of the Fair Elections Act," Baraan said.

USATV claims to have 30,000 subscribers here and in several other towns in the province.

"It was a propaganda interview; it was not meant to inform the public about JDV. It was meant to enhance solely and unfairly the candidacy of JDV," Baraan said.

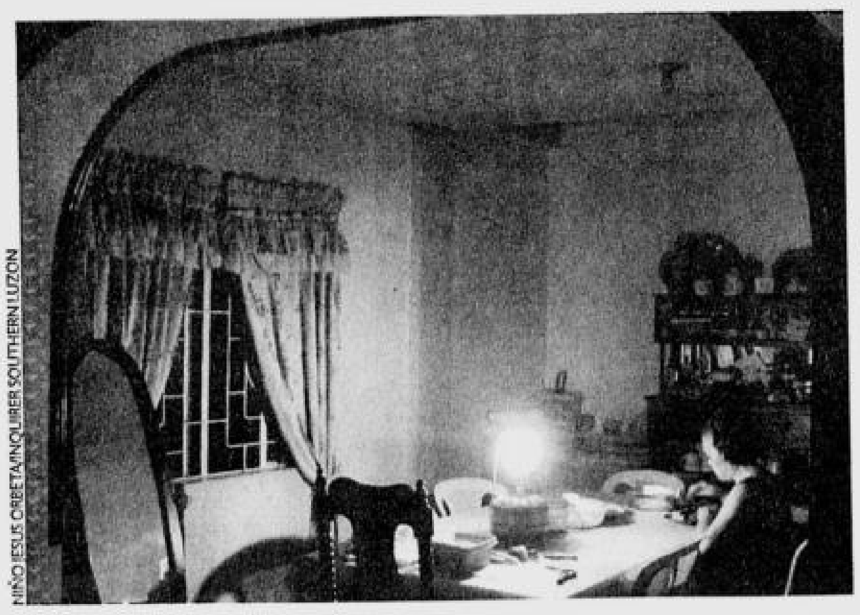
De Venecia said those were legitimate interviews, "like you, you're always interviewing me."

On April 27, Jack Castañeda, counsel for Lakas and De Venecia, said he had filed a disqualification case against Lim.

The case was based on statements of 92 witnesses who claimed that they had received from P50 to P1,000 and bags containing canned goods, sugar, rice, bread and T-shirt.

It turned out that the case was filed by a certain Ms Dioquino only on May 5 at the Comelec office here.

Reddy Balarbar, provincial election officer, said he would conduct a hearing on the disqualification cases against Lim on May 10 and on De Venecia on May 11.



NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/INQUIRER SOUTHERN LUZON

**BICOLANOS grope in the dark for answers to the daily outages that keep their houses and heads hot in the sweltering dry season heat.**

# Outages in Bicol not related to polls, say power execs

LEGAZPI CITY—OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL Transmission Corp. (Transco) denied allegations the daily power outages in Bicol, a known opposition country, is part of a political agenda.

Guillermo Redoblado, vice president for Luzon operations and maintenance, said Transco remains apolitical.

Arthur Aguilar, Transco president, said the National Power Corp. was rushing a 45-megawatt generator set to the Tiwi geothermal power plant to boost the capacity of the plant.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered power restored in Bicol.

Aguilar said emergency rehabilitation work was underway on the six towers in the 230-kilovolt Naga-Gumaca line.

He said it would take Napocor two to three days to install the generator set and the outages would ease Wednesday or Thursday.

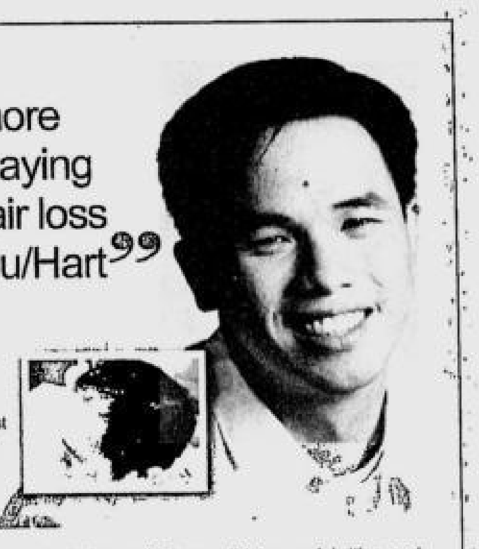
The Napocor generator set would lower the power supply deficiency in the region to just about 5 megawatts.

Transco records showed that Bicol has a 140-MW maximum demand during peak hours while the current supply capacity of the Tiwi plant is 80-MW and that of the Bac-Man geothermal power plant is 10-MW.

Aguilar said the supply situation would normalize by May 12, two days before the May 14 elections.

He admitted, however, that aside from the six towers that collapsed last May 2, there are still more than a hundred towers in the region which might collapse anytime.

Aguilar said 48 towers were damaged by Supertyphoon "Milenyo" and 118 by Supertyphoon "Reming." *Ephraim Aguilar and Bobby Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*



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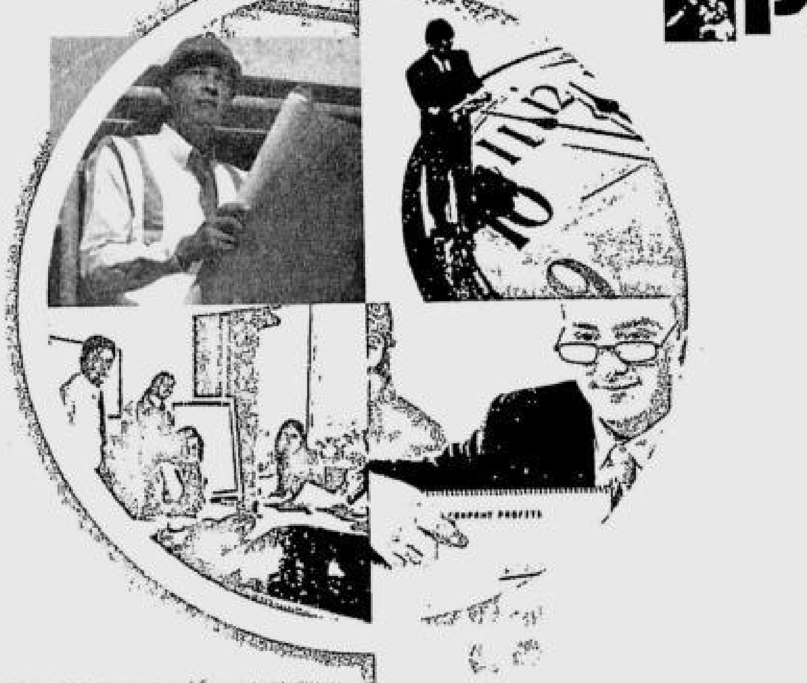

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# 'Little charmer' campaigns hard

**By Cynthia D. Balana**

THEY CALL HIM "THE LITTLE charmer" on the campaign trail.

Meet Edgardo Manolo Angara, who, at two-and-a-half-years-old, is possibly the youngest campaigner in personality-oriented Philippine elections.

He is the first grandson of reelectionist Sen. Edgardo Angara, who is running under the administration's Team Unity.

His parents are Rep. Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara of the lone district of Aurora and ABS-CBN talent manager Elvira "Tootsy" Echauz-Angara.

The ladies fawn over him when he's down in the crowds shaking hands and giving out campaign leaflets and wallet calendars.

"He's my best ally," admits Angara, a former secretary of education and president of the University of the Philippines.

You hear the oohs and ahhs when this cute boy gets up on stage and waves to the crowd. He knows his cue—when to stand up and say "Vote for Angara," "Iboto si Lolo Ed!" Then he sings and dances to Angara's campaign jingle, "Sa Iyo," which is sung by Sarah Geronimo in TV ads.

**MANOLO** Angara (left) awaits his cue to sing and dance during a campaign rally of his grandfather, Sen. Ed Angara.

Manolo has attended a fiesta in Baler, Aurora, joined a parade and walked two kilometers with his lolo on a campaign sortie. He has been to Bataan, Muntinlupa, Mandaluyong, Baguio and Benguet, said his mom.

"I think he has the charm of Sonny (his father) because obviously I'm not a charming person, Angara said with a laugh.

"*Pero mana sa akin sa utak* (but his brains he inherited from me)," he quipped.

Manolo's two names were taken from his grandfather's, and Manuel Quezon, the first president of the Philippine republic who hailed from Baler, the hometown of the Angara's.

Manolo was first seen on national television when Angara filed his certificate of candidacy with the Commission on Elections in February.

Since then, people have started looking for Manolo in Angara's campaign sorties.

## Loves kids

"He loves to be with other children. During campaign sorties, he would always join the children in the crowd and shake hands with them," the senator said.

Angara said no one was forcing his grandson to join his campaign sorties. "The boy simply loves to dance and sing."

"He is also my stress-buster," he said.

Campaign staffers always bring Manolo to Angara's side whenever the senator is not in the mood or is under stress.

## French fries

Manolo's mother, Tootsie, says "the boy simply loves campaigning."

"After one busy day of sorties, we asked him what he'd like as a reward for campaigning so hard. He said, 'french fries!'" said Tootsie, who has a direct hand in her father-in-law's media and image campaign.

Manolo's presence and the choice of Sarah Geronimo as celebrity endorser, were meant to stress Angara's campaign pitch for education.

Key initiatives on children's health insurance, the increase of discounts for senior citizens science education, and financial assistance programs for students are among the priority projects that Angara says he will pursue in the next Congress should he be elected.

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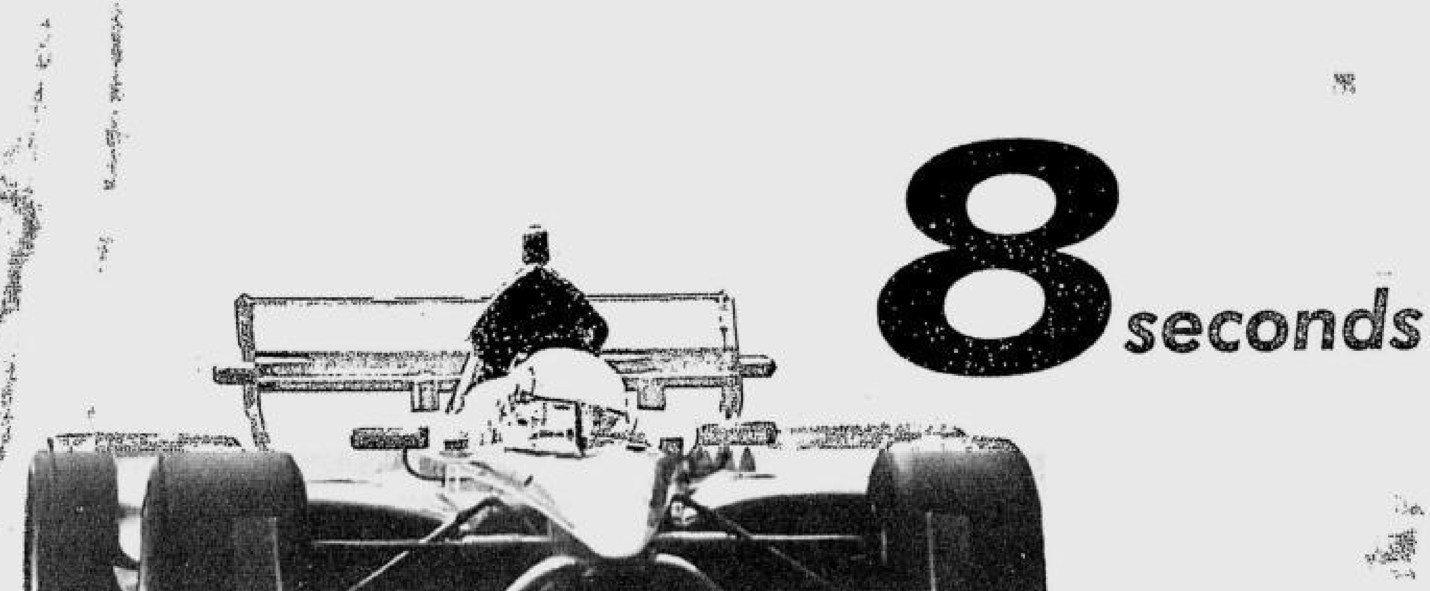

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# Newly-hired maid runs off with ₱2M

## Suspect missing 5 hours after hiring

**By Allison W. Lopez**

A HOUSEMAID PULLED A FAST one on her employer when she ran away with more than P2 million in cash and jewelry—just five hours after she was hired.

Policemen are now looking for the woman named Marlyn Basco or Mylene Busco after her employer, businessman Jeffrey Dy Co of Sta. Cruz, Manila, accused her of stealing P10,000 and $700 in cash, three Rolex watches worth P930,000 and assorted jewelry estimated at P1 million on April 28.

PO3 Gordius Alumbro of the Manila Police District's Theft and Robbery section said the victim only filed a complaint the other day because "he did not know where to go."

### Polio victim?

The businessman described the suspect as *mestiza*-looking, between 22 and 28 years old, around 5'2" to 5'4" in height and "crippled because of a polio condition."

It was not known, however, if the disability was real or the suspect was faking it.

Co told the police that he hired Basco at around 4 p.m. last April 28.

He said he later invited her to accompany him and his family to a mall in Makati but the suspect declined, saying she was not feeling well because she had her menstrual period.

At 10 p.m., a relative of Co called him up and said a watchman at the condominium where Co and his family live had informed him that Basco left their unit at around 9 p.m., reportedly to buy some sanitary napkins.

She never returned.

Alumbro said they would question the Cos' former housemaid, a certain "Ging," whom the suspect name dropped when she applied for the job. *With Cyrian Agujo*

**A DIFFERENT KIND OF RALLY**
A private guard loses his cap while running after a group of men dressed only in their underwear and see-through plastic wrap. The men, members of Asap, a party-list group, were campaigning for "transparency in government." The guards of a mall in Pasay City, however, were not amused and took them into custody after a brief chase. RYAN LIM

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# Prof accused of sexual harassment could face charges

**By Margaux C. Ortiz**

THE QUEZON CITY PROSECUTOR'S Office has recommended the filing of charges against a professor who was accused by his student of sexual harassment last year.

Assistant City Prosecutor Ben de la Cruz made the recommendation after he found probable cause against Arsenio Lizaso, a professor of the St. Paul University (formerly St. Paul College) in Quezon City, saying the respondent took advantage of his position to obtain sexual favors from his student.

The case was elevated to the Metropolitan Trial Court (MTC) Branch 31 last week. Records from the court showed the respondent posted a P2,000 cash bond for his temporary liberty.

In his resolution, De la Cruz said the complainant—a mass communication student at the university—had accused Lizaso of frequently calling her on her cellular phone and sending her text messages containing indecent proposals with sexual innuendos from November 2005 to March 2006.

"One time, the respondent likened himself to a 21-year-old admirer smitten by his gorgeous student," the resolution said.

The young woman also said in her complaint, which she filed in August 2006, that Lizaso had invited her to go to a motel or hotel and spend time with him in a "soul-searching (activity)." The alleged invitation was even heard by the complainant's schoolmate.

The complainant also alleged that in March 2006, Lizaso had instructed her to meet him in Club Filipino in Greenhills, San Juan so she could submit a school project to him there.

"While (in Club Filipino), the respondent allegedly managed to kiss the complainant on her face despite her efforts to evade this unwanted sexual transgression," the resolution said.

In his counter-affidavit, Lizaso denied the charges and stressed that he could not have sent text messages or called up the complainant because she was frequently absent from class. He also pointed out that a public place such as Club Filipino was not suitable for illicit trysts.

According to him, the complainant had failed most of her subjects during the second semester of school year 2005-2006. He also belied her claim that she was apprehensive about getting a failing grade in the subject he taught.

However, the Quezon City assistant city prosecutor said Lizaso's denial was futile "because of the time-honored rule that positive testimony prevails over negative ones. There is simply no reason why the complainant would file the charges against the respondent if she has not been truly aggrieved," De la Cruz said.

He added in his resolution that the calls, text messages and indecent proposals constituted sexual harassment.

Sought for comment, the university's human resources department told the INQUIRER that Lizaso, a professor at the institution since 2003, had been on leave since June 2006. *With Verity Ayrah B. Cabigao*

# Being a woman makes all the difference for Manila's MJ

**By Jeannette I. Andrade**

IS MANILA READY FOR A WOMAN'S TOUCH?

Maria Teresita Jimenez, or MJ, thinks so. The only woman candidate in the city's mayoral race feels she has an edge over her male rivals.

ELEKSYON 2007

According to her, being a member of the fairer sex served her well in her five years as head of a charitable organization.

"I just wanted to make a difference in other people's lives, make their lives better and although I know that this is a very challenging endeavor, I find my strength in being a woman. When I go to the people, they always feel that they can talk to me. *Madali akong lapitan. Madali akong magmahal. Nakakaintindi ako ng mga hinaing nila* and I guess, as a woman, *mas masipag talaga ang babae* (I am easy to approach. I love others easily. I can understand their concerns and I guess, as a woman, we are more industrious)."

## Lady in white

Clad in her signature all-white two-piece suit, Jimenez, also known as Maria Teresita Crespo-Alsua, talked to the INQUIRER about what made her decide to run for one of the most hotly-contested posts in Metro Manila.

"I have always thought about helping people on a larger scale because I headed a foundation for five years," she said, referring to the San Antonio Charity.

"I really reached out to the people of Manila. I had 10 trucks and I was feeding people every day and I also had a computer literacy program for the poor in the barangays. I would take them from the barangay, give them free transportation, food, everything. And so, it's always been my advocacy," Jimenez said.

Jimenez, who prefers to be addressed by the nickname "MJ" which she borrowed from her older brother and former Manila Congressman Mark Jimenez, said her decision to run was spurred by her desire to help poor Manileños.

"I find strength in seeing that the people find hope in me because they treat me as their mother and they can easily approach me and embrace me," she said, adding that she enjoys the "very personal" gesture.

"I enjoy going to the houses of the poor living alongside the railroad tracks, under the bridges and listening to them tell me how I can help them. That is why my platform is based on what they tell me," she said.

## Program

According to Jimenez, should she be elected mayor, she will push for better health services, education, a stable economy, more jobs for Manileños and caring for the environment. According to her, residents in the city's depressed areas usually complain of the inaccessibility of basic health services.

"That is what they really need. Usually there are so many people who are sick and they complain about the unavailability of medicines and medical equipment. They ask me if they can have clinics in their areas staffed by a doctor or even a nurse or healthcare giver, anybody who can administer emergency treatment," she said.

Jimenez specifically has her eye on rehabilitating the Ospital ng Maynila apart from other local medical facilities, an endeavor for which she seeks her brother's valuable support.

"My brother is part owner of a huge laboratory in America that services many other states," she said. "It's based in Minnesota and is called LCM—Laboratory of Clinical Medicine. I have already talked to him about it, and I am sure he won't disappoint me."

## DID YOU KNOW

DE LA SALLE Araneta University is an educational institution in Malabon City that offers programs in agriculture, forestry and veterinary medicine. It started in 1946 as an agricultural school in San Jose del Monte, Bulacan.

Before it became a member of De La Salle Philippines Inc.,—an association of La Sallian educational institutions—it was called Gregorio Araneta University Foundation, after the late secretary of the Malolos Congress who later became justice of the Supreme Court.

*Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

# GMA No. 1 campaigner for the opposition

**ON TARGET**

*Ramon Tulfo*

THERE HAVE BEEN SPECULATIONS that President Macapagal-Arroyo is not in control as Chief Executive and as the political leader of the administration party.

But those speculations didn't seem to have any basis, not until the Makati City Hall fiasco. The incident clearly showed that Ms Arroyo's advisers are running things on their own.

Interior Secretary Ronnie Puno, apparently without orders from Malacañang, served a suspension order on Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay at the height of the political campaign.

Binay, who's running for reelection, has projected an image of being oppressed, with the Arroyo administration as the oppressor.

Puno was carrying out an order from the Office of the Ombudsman suspending Binay, but he could have waited for the right time!

It was the worst time to serve the suspension order, given the popularity of Binay among the masses and the unpopularity of the President. Considered a genius at political manipulation, Puno made an idiotic decision on the Binay case.

Clearly, Puno didn't even consult the President's political adviser, Secretary Gabby Claudio. Claudio would have dissuaded Puno, as suspending Binay at this time would have grave political repercussions.

Apparently, too, Puno doesn't hold Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita in high esteem as the latter was not informed about his move.

"*Kawawa naman* the President *sinisira* by her advisers," as her classmate at Assumption, Cynthia Carrion, now with GMA's Kitchen Cabinet, would have said in *colegialaspeak*.

Binay is right. The No. 1 campaigner for all the opposition candidates is President Arroyo herself.

* * *

**In a fatal traffic accident, the investigator should not leave any stone unturned.**

**But PO2 Jose Pauig Adducul of the Parañaque police traffic enforcement group mishandled the investigation of the death of 17-year-old student Kevin Peterson Uy.**

**Uy was riding a motorcycle on the Diosdado Macapagal Highway when Korean Woon San-jan, who was going against the flow of traffic, had a head-on collision with him. Uy died on the spot.**

**Woon was drunk and was even incoherent when taken to the police station, according to witnesses.**

**But Adducul allegedly didn't make Woon undergo an alcoholic breath test.**

**The results of the test would have aggravated Woon's offense.**

**Was Adducul being soft on Woon? Makes me wonder.**

# Niño denies drug charge in court

**By Margaux C. Ortiz**

FORMER CHILD ACTOR NIÑO MUHLACH entered a not guilty plea when he was arraigned on drug possession charges at the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 79 yesterday morning.

Muhlach, 35, who arrived early in court, was originally set to be arraigned on April 13 but the proceedings were postponed after he arrived late. This prompted Judge Rafael Lagos to revoke the P200,000 cash bond Muhlach posted earlier and to issue a warrant for the actor's arrest.

However, Muhlach—who had blamed his tardiness on a busted car fan belt—managed to escape arrest by immediately filing a motion to lift the warrant as soon as he arrived in court.

During yesterday's proceedings, Lagos asked Muhlach's lawyer, Gina Garcia, why her client was late in last month's scheduled hearing.

After explaining that she was in Aklan last month and could not assist Muhlach, Lagos set aside his order for the issuance of the arrest warrant.

"Next time, be on time," the judge told Muhlach.

However, Lagos denied the respondent's motion for a reinvestigation of the case, saying the motion was filed after the prescribed period.

## METRO BRIEFS

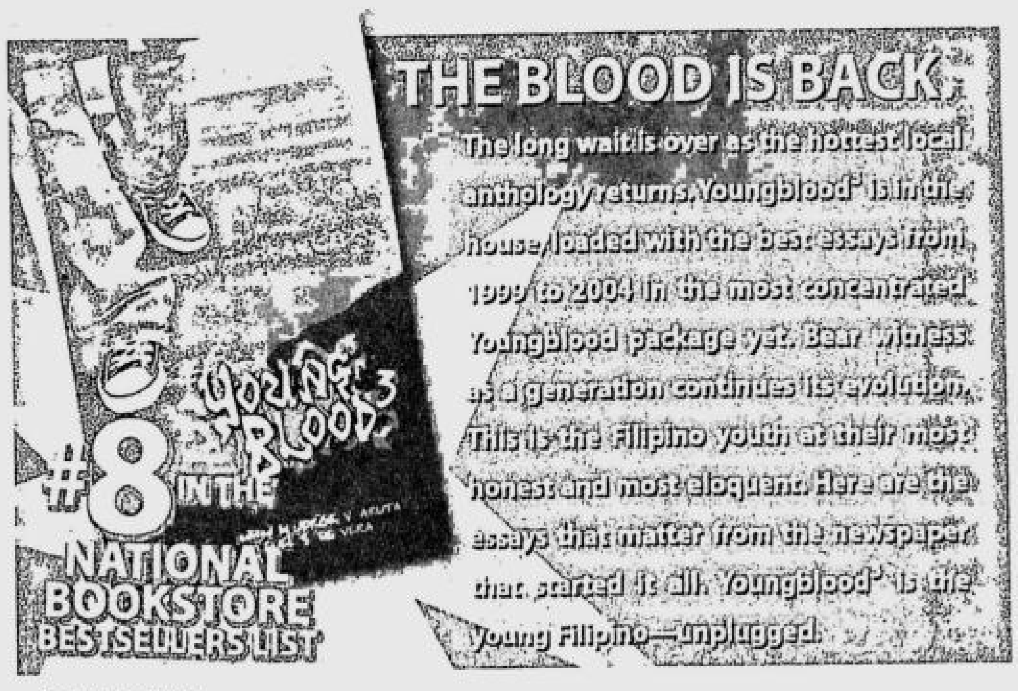
### Shot dead

WITH just a week to go before the May 14 elections, a supporter of Rep. Consuelo "Connie" Dy, who is now running for mayor, was shot dead by an unidentified gunman early yesterday morning. The fatality was identified as barangay leader Melchor Saria, 36, a known supporter of Dy. He was driving his motorcycle on Almazor Andres St. in Barangay 185 near Villamor Airbase in Pasay City when a man approached him and shot him three times. Saria was first rushed to the Protacio Hospital in Parañaque City but was later transferred to the San Juan de Dios Hospital in Pasay City, where he died while being operated on. Police are still trying to determine the identity of the gunman, who immediately fled from the scene.

*Julie M. Aurelio*

### E. Ramos; 61

ELISEO del Rosario Ramos died on May 4 at the age of 61. He is survived by wife Rosy, children Jennilyn and Mylou and siblings Dominga, Guillermo, Maximo, Amparo, Virginia, Popoy and Victoria. His remains lie at 80 C. Santos Street in Barangay Ugong, Pasig City. Interment will be on Wednesday, May 9, at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery.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| Item No. | Description | Location | Minimum / Floor Price |
|---|---|---|---|
| 07-1 | 1.5 million shares of stock of Monterrosa Dev't Corporation | 150-hectare residential lot located in Bgy Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas (near Evercrest Golf Club) | P 892,500,000.00 |
| 07-2 | Rivera Golf Club Shares<br>945 Class A Shares<br>834 Class B Shares<br>500 Class C Shares | Riviera Golf Club, Incorporated, Silang, Cavite (Two 18-Hole Championship Golf Courses) | P 1,183,950,000.00<br>(selling 45% controlling interest at Riviera Golf Club, Inc) |
| 07-3 | 1,577,007 sqm industrial lot | Sabang, Morong, Bataan (beside Ayala Land's Anvaya Cove Project) | P 816,889,626.00 |
| The following properties will also be sold by way of sealed bids on cash or term basis (min. 30% down payment; 16% interest rate p.a., max. 5 yrs to pay): | | | |
| 07-4 | House & Lot<br>L/A 230.9 sqm<br>F/A 248.49 sqm | 1545 2nd Street, Fabie Estate, Paco, Manila | P 3,551,215.00 |
| 07-5 | House & Lot<br>L/A 329 sqm<br>F/A 167 sqm | B18, L4, Rosario Bayview Subd., Sucat, Muntinlupa | P 2,458,540.00 |
| 07-6 | House & Lot<br>F/A 618.98 sqm<br>L/A 2,607 sqm | 29 Sunflower Dr. Beverly Hills, Taytay, Rizal | P 7,081,592.76 |
| 07-7 | 291 sqm residential lot | B45 L26 Cer-Hil Subd., Quebiawan, San Fernando, Pampanga | P 321,555.00 |
| 07-8 | 489 sqm residential lot | #245 Concepcion, Bo. Rio-Chico, Gen. Tinio, Nueva Ecija | P 229,071.60 |

For interested parties, please note the following activities that will be held at the Board Room, RSBS, 424 Capinpin Avenue, Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C.:

| Pre-Bidding Conference | Deadline for Acceptance of Bids | Opening of Sealed Bids |
|---|---|---|
| May 17, 2007<br>10:00 a.m. | May 23, 2007<br>10:00 a.m. | May 23, 2007<br>10:15 a.m. |

Bidding documents shall be available starting May 11, 2007 at the Property Management Office, 3/F, RSBS Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q.C. at P500.00 each.

For inquiries on Item 07-1, please call Putch or Amor at 912-0056
For inquiries on Item 07-2, please call Yas or Tammy at 911-8714 / 912-4724 / 912-3695
For inquiries on other items, please call Liza or Darwin at 912-4718

(PDI – May 8, 9 & 10, 2007)

# Weekend of carnage: Dozens of Iraqis, 11 US soldiers killed

BAGHDAD—IRAQI AND AMERICAN forces battled to regain the initiative Monday after two days of intense violence in and around Baghdad left dozens of Iraqis, 11 US soldiers and a European journalist dead.

Sunday saw a fierce surge in insurgent attacks, including a car bombing in a Baghdad shopping street, a suicide assault on a Samarra police station and a deadly ambush on an American patrol north of the capital.

"There are going to be these rough spots and the enemy is not just going to sit back and wait for us to clean them out and be done with it," said Maj. Joe Edstrom, a US military public affairs officer.

"We have to expect that there will be days like this. We are just going to do what they always do and just drive on, press forward, take measures and steps and ensure that there are not more casualties," he said.

In Sunday's bloodiest attack, a car bomb ripped through a crowded street in Bayaa, a mainly Shiite commercial area of Baghdad, demolishing two shops and killing at least 33 people.

Such spectacular massacres are carried out by Sunni insurgents to discredit Iraq's fragile government and its US allies, while provoking Shiite reprisals and leaving the country all but ungovernable.

Baghdad and Washington have responded with a massive security plan, backed up by a 28,000-strong "surge" in US troop reinforcements, designed to quell sectarian fighting and hunt down the car bomb gangs.

But the security forces themselves sometimes fall victim to increasingly audacious insurgent attacks, particularly in a belt of violent cities and rural communities in the lawless region around the capital.

On Sunday, insurgents ambushed a US patrol in Diyala province northeast of Baghdad, killing six American soldiers and a civilian European journalist travelling with them. Two more soldiers on the patrol were injured.

The US military has released few details of the attack, in which a Stryker armored vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Iraqi police officials told AFP that a US convoy was ambushed by insurgents near the village Zaghaniya, 5 kilometers north of Baquba, but it was not clear if they were referring to the same attack.

The journalist who died in the ambush has yet to be identified. *AFP*

# 'No chance of survivors' from Kenya plane

NAIROBI—RESCUE TEAMS ON Monday prepared to battle a rough terrain in swampland in southwest Cameroon to access the wreckage of a crashed Kenyan Airways plane carrying 114 people, a Kenyan official said.

"It is a very bad terrain ... they will to cut through the mangrove and access the crash site, then try to retrieve what they have to retrieve," said the official with the Kenyan Civil Aviation Authority, asking not to be named.

Cameroon's army cordoned off an area south of Douala around the scene of the crash, that occurred in the early hours of Saturday, after flight KQ 507 vanished from radar screens in a violent storm on its way from Douala to Nairobi.

A Kenya Airways official said there was "practically no chance" of finding any survivors in the wreckage of the passenger jet.

"Given the situation there is practically no chance there will be any survivors," said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The exact sequence of tragedy remained unclear, although a Kenyan official said the six-month-old plane may have been hit by lightning.

Mohamed Ramtu of a Kenyan delegation of 35 officials in Cameroon told AFP that they were trying to reach the site of the crash.

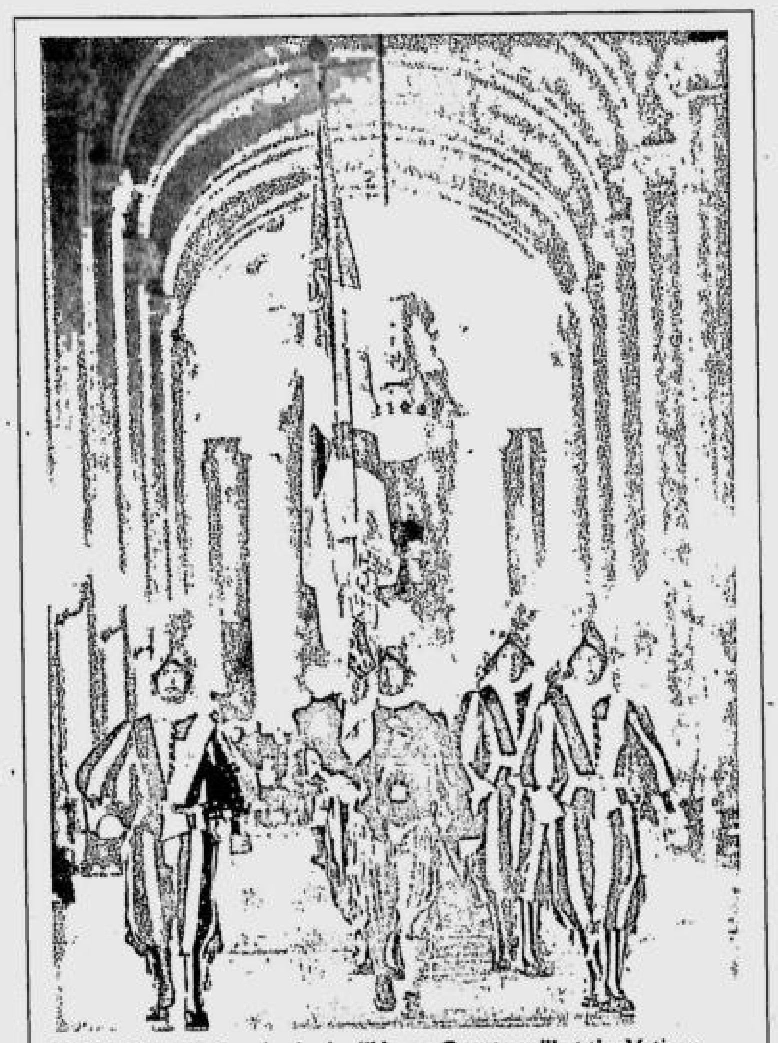
"We are determined in this rescue operation even though we do not have all (the equipment) we need at the moment," he said.

The Boeing 737-800 began its journey in the Ivory Coast city of Abidjan, and collected passengers on a stopover in Douala before heading for Nairobi.

The plane was carrying 105 passengers from at least 23 countries. Most had been planning to connect through Nairobi to other destinations outside Kenya.

The US Embassy in Nairobi expressed sympathy for the victims of the tragedy and said the US National Transportation and Safety Board would help investigate the cause of the crash.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of all those who perished," it said in a statement. *AFP*



**SWISS GUARDS** arrive in the "Honor Courtyard" at the Vatican May 6. The Swiss Guard, founded in 1506, consists of 100 volunteers who must be Swiss nationals, Catholic, single, at least 174 cm (5 feet 8 inches) tall and beardless. New recruits are sworn in every year on May 6, commemorating the date on which 147 Swiss soldiers died defending the Pope during an attack on Rome on May 6, 1527. REUTERS

# *In LatAm, Pope faces theology of liberation*

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—IN THE early 1980s, when Pope John Paul II wanted to clamp down on what he considered a dangerous, Marxist-inspired movement in the Roman Catholic Church, liberation theology, he turned to a trusted aide: Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

Now Cardinal Ratzinger is Pope Benedict XVI, and when he arrives here on Wednesday for his first pastoral visit to Latin America he may be surprised at what he finds. Liberation theology, which he once called "a fundamental threat to the faith of the church," persists as an active, even defiant force in Latin America, home to nearly half the world's one billion Roman Catholics.

Over the past 25 years, even as the Vatican moved to silence the clerical theorists of liberation theology and the church fortified its conservative hierarchy, the social and economic ills the movement highlighted have worsened. In recent years, the politics of the region have also drifted leftward, giving the movement's demand that the church embrace "a preferential option for the poor" new impetus and credibility.

Today some 80,000 "base communities," as the grass-roots building blocks of liberation theology are called, operate in Brazil, the world's most populous Roman Catholic nation, and nearly 1 million "Bible circles" meet regularly to read and discuss Scripture from the viewpoint of the theology of liberation.

During Pope Benedict's five-day visit here, he is scheduled to meet with President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, canonize a saint, preach to the faithful and visit a drug treatment center before addressing the opening session of a conference of Latin American bishops that will discuss the future of the church in the region where liberation theology originated, prospered and drew so much of his censure. Some liberation theology supporters will be present, others will be at a parallel meeting, and all have been cautioned not to be too aggressive in pressing their views.

Sparring between liberation theologians and Pope Benedict has been long and bitter. In 1984, as the Vatican official charged with supervising questions of faith and doctrine, he declared that "the theology of liberation is a singular heresy."

More recently, he said, "it seems to me we need not theology of liberation, but theology of martyrdom," and argued that the movement will become a valid theology "only when it refuses to accept power and worldly logic" and instead emphasizes "inner liberty." *NYT*

## WORLDBRIEFS

### 9 peacekeepers die in Egypt crash

CAIRO—Nine members of a multinational peacekeeping force, eight French nationals and a Canadian, were killed Sunday when their plane crashed during an emergency landing in Egypt's Sinai peninsula. According to Egyptian security sources on the crash site, the light aircraft suffered a technical failure and tried to perform an emergency landing on a road near the town of Nakhl, a remote area in the central Sinai mountains. All the dead belonged to a quarter-century-old peacekeeping mission, the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO), which suffered its greatest loss with the accident. *AFP*

### Turkey fails to elect president in re-run ballot

ANKARA—The sole candidate in Turkey's presidential election, Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul, officially withdrew his name Sunday after parliament failed for a second time to vote him into office. The election has triggered a crisis in secular Turkey, amid widespread opposition to the idea of a former Islamist like Gul taking on the largely ceremonial but highly symbolic office. His announcement came hours after a re-run, first-round ballot was cancelled by parliament speaker Bulent Arinc when two separate roll calls showed the number of lawmakers present was below the 367—two-thirds of the house—required to make the vote valid. On Saturday, tens of thousands of protesters had turned out across Turkey to call on Gul to withdraw, amid concerns that he and the AKP are intent on undermining the separation of religion and state. *AFP*

# Beijing fines spitters

BEIJING — CHINA fined more than 50 people in the Chinese capital for spitting during a holiday over the past week as part of a bid to improve the city's image ahead of next year's Olympic Games, state media reported Monday.

Xinhua News Agency said officials from Beijing's management department and civilization promotion office sent inspection teams to major tourist areas such as Tiananmen Square to stop people from spitting and littering during the weeklong Labor Day holiday.

The officials handed out more than 10,000 garbage bags to tourists, reminding them not to litter, Xinhua said.

Residents say the spitting habit is a reaction to Beijing's dirty, dry air.

Bad manners have been a constant worry for Chinese officials and leaders who see the Olympics as a chance to impress the world and humanize China's remarkable reemergence as a global power.

The China National Tourism Administration issued a circular, making travel agencies and tour guides responsible for correcting tourists' bad behavior during the holidays. *AP*

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# World Bank seen firing Wolfowitz

WASHINGTON—THE WORLD Bank has never fired its president in its more than 60-year history. That could change this week.

The bank's board of shareholder nations will meet as soon as Tuesday, possibly followed by a second meeting, to decide whether Paul Wolfowitz will be forced out or given the chance to negotiate his departure, according to board sources who declined to be identified.

According to the sources, it is virtually impossible for Wolfowitz to stay on as president for the rest of his term because of the damage to the bank's credibility and its ability to be effective in its mission to reduce global poverty.

Controversy surrounding Wolfowitz's role in a lucrative promotion for his companion, World Bank Middle East expert Shaha Riza, has paralyzed the institution for more than a month.

The bank's employee association said the promotion and raise received by Riza broke staff rules and showed an abuse of power by Wolfowitz, a former deputy US defense secretary who was a key architect of the US invasion of Iraq.

Wolfowitz responded that he was the victim of a smear campaign designed to discredit his leadership of the institution and undermine his campaign to position the bank at the forefront of fighting corruption in developing countries.

WOLFOWITZ AFP

A special panel appointed by the board to investigate Riza's promotion will report its findings to the bank board this week, but board sources said there is too much damage done and Wolfowitz will have to go.

Board sources said on Sunday there was no evidence that the panel had completed its work, and no report had yet been widely circulated among the 24-nation board chaired by Germany.

There are no rules to determine the dismissal of a World Bank chief because it never has happened before. The bank board has the authority to appoint and to fire the president, who is traditionally nominated by the United States. A decision could be made by consensus or determined by a simple majority vote of 51 percent. The United States holds around 16 percent.

*Reuters*

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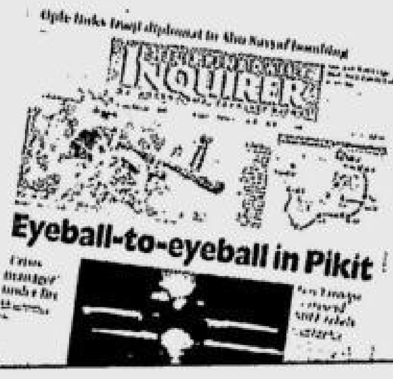

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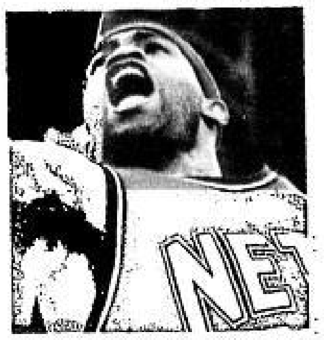


# Junthy slapped with hefty fine, two-game ban

## Suspension may force Red Bull to pull Villanueva out of RP 5

**GAME TODAY** (*Araneta Coliseum*)
7 p.m.—RP Team vs PBA Imports

**By Musong R. Castillo**

**JUNTHY VALENZUELA OF RED BULL WAS slapped yesterday with a hefty fine of P65,000 and suspended for two games following an ugly display of temper in a Fiesta Cup game with Talk 'N Text last Friday.**

The Philippine Basketball Association came down hard on Valenzuela, although the national team will also feel the heat after Red Bull officials were said to have held a meeting regarding the possibility of pulling Enrico Villanueva out of the RP 5.

The Nationals are set to play an exhibition game against the PBA roster of imports today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Villanueva was supposed to suit up as the 12th man of the national squad, after Rudy Hatfield backed out to attend to personal matters. But he might not suit up tonight, a reliable source said, if Red Bull pushes through with its plan to reactivate the bruising 6-foot-5 forward.

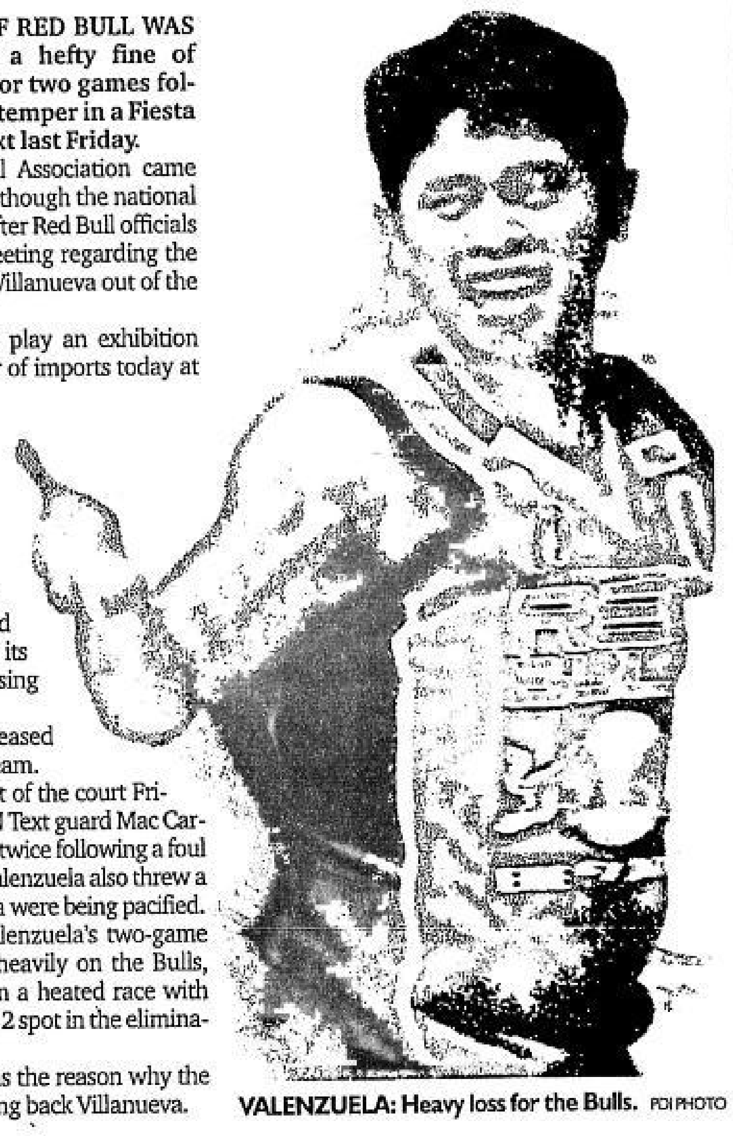
The Bulls had earlier released Villanueva to the national team.

Valenzuela was tossed out of the court Friday night for slapping Talk 'N Text guard Mac Cardona at the back of the head twice following a foul from the Phone Pal guard. Valenzuela also threw a punch while he and Cardona were being pacified.

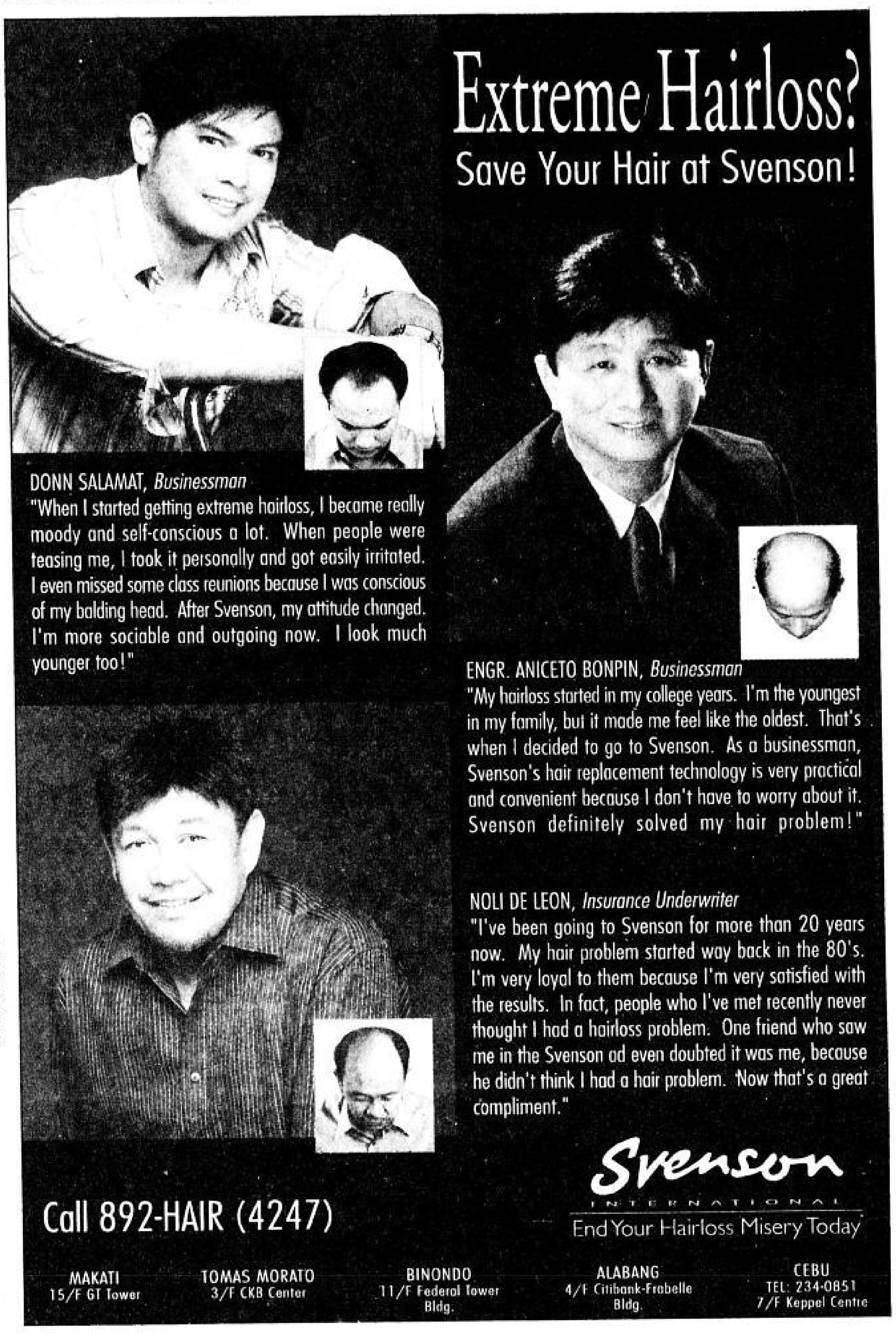
A Red Bull mainstay, Valenzuela's two-game ban is expected to weigh heavily on the Bulls, who are currently locked in a heated race with two other teams for the No. 2 spot in the elimination round.

This, the source said, was the reason why the Bulls were considering taking back Villanueva.

The stiff fine on Valenzuela was the year's biggest, surpassing the P50,000 Homer Se of Air21 paid on top of a one-game suspension for rough play earlier in the tournament.



**VALENZUELA: Heavy loss for the Bulls.** PDI PHOTO



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# Moneymen aim for solo 2nd vs Dazz

INSPIRED BY A STRONG FIRST ROUND, CEBUANA Lhuillier-Pera Padala shoots for solo second place against cellar-dweller Dazz 'Sang Patak at the start of the second elimination round of the PBL Unity Cup today at The Arena in San Juan.

The Moneymen routed the Kitchen Specialists, 74-59, at the end of their first round campaign Saturday and are favored in their 4 p.m. date with their erstwhile victims anew.

"I'm very satisfied with this kind of win," said coach Luigi Trillo after the victory that gave the Moneymen a share of second place with Burger King at 4-2. "We worked hard in the second quarter then doubled our efforts in the final half."

Henkel Sista will also try to duplicate its convincing triumph over San Miguel-Magnolia at 4 p.m.

After opening the conference with four straight losses, the Super Sealers recovered with back-to-back victories, including a 71-62 decision versus San Miguel-Magnolia last Saturday.

And coach Caloy Garcia hopes the Super Sealers' winning streak will extend in the second round with new Fil-Am recruit Ryan Reyes.

The 6-foot-1 point guard debuted against the Beverage Masters with 18 points on a 6-of-9 shooting in just 16 minutes of action.

"We have to beat Magnolia again to have a better position," said Garcia. "(Reyes) is an excellent guard, a big boost to us. But we still have to play harder in our next game so that we can stand on solid ground."

Henkel Sista wrapped up the first round tied with San Miguel-Magnolia at 2-4.

Reyes, though, will have to measure up against Magnolia's veteran backcourt led by Jonas Villanueva, Jeff Chan and Bonbon Custodio.

The Kitchen Specialists, meanwhile, will try to halt their alarming skid with Reed Juntilla, Larry Rodriguez and Robert Sanz.

After an opening-day victory against Toyota Balintawak, the Kitchen Specialists went on a five-game slump. *Jasmine W. Payo*

**GAMES TODAY** *(The Arena, San Juan)*
2 p.m.—Henkel Sista vs Magnolia
4 p.m.—Pera Padala vs Dazz

**US-BOUND: Clare Amelia Legaspi shows her winning form in Class E (7-8 years old) of the national qualifying tournament for the Junior World Championships slated in July in San Diego, California.** ROGER MARGALLO

# Manalo cops third spot in Florida 9-ball

LONE FILIPINO ENTRY MARLON MANALO settled for third place in the Seminole Florida Pro Tour Stop 9-ball tournament yesterday at the New Wave Billiards hall in Miami, Florida.

After posting three consecutive wins against Nathan Rose, Ronnie Wiseman and Tony Chohan, all by 7-5 scores the other day; Manalo yielded to Donnie Mills, 8-7, and was relegated to the loser's bracket.

The 30-year-old Manalo came back in contention by beating Dave Grossman, 8-3, Tony Crosby, 8-3, Corey Deuel, 8-2, and Tony Chohan, 8-7, in the one-loss side according to yesterday's report of AZbilliards.com.

He had a chance to secure the last seat for the race-to-9 finals but suffered his second loss at the hands of eventual winner Dennis Hatch, 8-1.

Manalo, top player of RP billiards patron Aristeo "Putch" Puyat of Puyat Sports, thus failed to duplicate his championship finish in the same event last week.

Hatch beat Donnie Mills, 9-4, in the finals en route to the top purse of $2,700. *Marlon Bernardino, contributor*

# Archers down Lions; Ateneo scores

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY POUNDED OUT A 97-84 victory over NCAA champion San Beda College in the Filoil-Flying V Preseason Invitational Cup yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

The Green Archers employed an up-tempo offense and half-court sets in the first three quarters to negate the impressive game of San Beda's Sam Ekwe, who scored 25 points, including 15 in the fourth.

DLSU team captain Tyrone Tang matched Ekwe's output to lead the Green Archers to their second straight victory. Veterans JV Casio and Rico Maierhofer chipped in 18 and 14, respectively, while Cholo Villanueva added 11.

Aside from Ekwe, three Red Lions also hit double figures with Yousif Al Jamal contributing 16 and JR Tecson and John Escobal canning 12 points apiece.

Ateneo de Manila University finally nailed a win after three tries as it crushed University of Santo Tomas, 67-60, in the second game.

Trailing by three at the end of the third canto, Alec Rivera and Mark Intal combined for 14 of the Blue Eagles' 21 points in the fourth quarter to put the game away for good.

University of Perpetual Help System Dalta entered into the win column after disposing off Philippine Christian University, 68-61.

**The scores:**

**First Game**

**DLSU 97**—Tang 25, Casio 18, Maierhofer 14, Villanueva 11, Batricevic 7, Ilao 6, Co 4, Malabes 3, Lee 2, Walsham 2, Ferdinand 0.

**SAN BEDA 84**—Ekwe 25, Al Jamal 16, Tecson 12, Escobal 12, Lanete 6, Maggay 4, Hermida 3, Menor 3, Marcelo 3.

**Quarters:** 27-24, 52-43, 80-58, 97-84.

**Second Game**

**ATENEO 67**—Rivera 12, Intal 10, Nkomakolem 9, Escueta 8, Gonzaga 7, Quimson 5, Sumalinog 5, Tin 4, Dizon 3, Balmaceda 2, Katipunan 0, De Guzman 0.

**UST 60**—Basa 16, Afuang 15, Fenequito 8, Scott 6, Gaco 4, Ricalde 4, Badua 3, Salazar 2, Soriano 2.

**Quarters:** 16-12, 31-37, 46-49, 67-60.

# Spring Cooking Oil wins

TAGAYTAY-SPRING COOKING OIL POSTED A coast-to-coast 77-68 victory over visiting Valencia Golden Harvest Sunday night in the 2007 Spring-NBC National Cup basketball tournament at the Oreta Sports Center in Malabon City.

Rodel Mallari sparkled anew for the Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla and league EVP Mayor Bambol Tolentino by producing 16 points, 19 rebounds, four assists, two blocks and one steal.

The Cooking Oil Masters improved their record to 5-0, half-a-game behind idle leader Iligan, 6-0.

Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia cagers dropped to 5-3. They were led by Buboy Berami and Jester Adams, who had 14 points apiece.

"It's a team effort," said Tagaytay Spring coach Efren "Yong" Garcia of the victory. "The boys had some lapses but they made up for it with a strong defense."

Spring led 64-53 going into the fourth quarter, but Valencia closed to within 61-67 at the 4:44 mark behind Adams' fiery shooting. Mallari, Marlon Legaspi and Jeff Tajonera erupted for 10 points to put the game away, 74-61, with less than a minute left.

The tournament is being supported by Sulpicio Lines, Yahoo Philippines, Spring Cooking Oil, San Miguel Beer, Caltex, Sun Cellular, Firefly Lightings, Trans Asia Shipping Lines, Molten, Nature's Spring, Basketball TV and Viva Prime Channel.

**The scores:**

**TAGAYTAY-SPRING 77**—Mallari 16, Marquez 13, Victolero 10, Tajonera 10, Legaspi 9, Munoz 6, Bolocon 5, Epondulan 3, Reyes 2, Salud 2, De Castro 1, Cuenca 0

**VALENCIA 68**—Berami 14, Adams 14, Cruz 12, Dragon 9, Concha 7, Saladaga 6, Clavel 3, Bolias 2, Cesar 1, Melia 0

**Quarters:** 19-9, 39-32, 64-53, 77-68

## SPORTSWATCH

### Golfer denied visa

THE NATIONAL TEAM'S CAMPAIGN IN TWO TOP tournaments in the United States next month suffered a blow when Fernando Aunzo's visa application was denied last week. Aunzo is the latest addition to the ICTSI golf squad, which comprises members of the national team headed by Jay Bayron and Dottie Ardina. His presence is expected to bolster the RP team's chances in the US Amateur Public links and the US Amateur golf Championships slated next month. The team, also priming up for a number of international tournaments, including the Nomura Cup in Taiwan in October and the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand in December, is set to leave for the US in the first week of June. Aunzo was invited to play in several golf tournaments in the USA and was in fact accepted to compete in the qualifying tournaments for the USGA events. He had all his travel documents in order but still failed to secure a US visa. Bayron leads the men's contingent that includes Asian Games bronze medalist Michael Bibat, Miko Alejandro, Dante Becierra, Anthony Fernando, Gino Bunyi and Gene Bondoc. Ardina heads the girls' side along with fellow Junior World champion Cyna Rodriguez, Anya Tanpinco, Mia Piccio, Bambee de la Paz, Debbie de Villa and Chihiro Ikeda.

### Fistorama on RPN-9

FISTORAMA FEATURES FIVE AMATEUR FIGHTS ON RPN-9 starting at 10 a.m. today. Aired Tuesdays, Fistorama's amateur bouts are part of the PCSO Amateur Boxing Championships held recently at the Cantada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Taguig City. The bouts were held at the air-conditioned multipurpose hall of the Cantada Sports Center. Fistorama is shown worldwide through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel, Kapamilya TV. Golf Power Plus airs Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. also on RPN-9. It will feature the PCSO Women's Inter-Collegiate Beach Volleyball Challenge.

### Rambulan finals today

AFTER A SERIES OF TOUGH ELIMINATION ROUNDS that began in March in cockpits nationwide, the National Rambulan 8-cock derby championship round starts today at the San Juan Coliseum. Due to the big number of fights (minimum of 150), the battle of provincial champions will start at 10 a.m. Out of 978 participants who took part, about 200 have entered the championship. Other qualifiers will compete on Thursday and Saturday. Seeing action today are Gerry Cundangan, Juanito Usi and A. dela Cruz of Bulacan, Jong Valera, Benjie Oca and Nonoy Gonzales of Laguna, Mike Borja and Odie Fausto of Cagayan, Didi Crisanto, Paul Montenegro and Teo Largo of Cebu, Boy Primallion, Henry Lucero and James Te of Zamboanga, Jun Gohitan, Boy Diaz and Pol Estrellado of Laguna, Maning Toh, Bobot Tan and George del Rosario of Davao. The winners who stand to receive a guaranteed prize of P10.5 million will be declared on Saturday. For info, contact 725-5369 and 725-6563 or 0917-8041691 (Maricar).

### RACING TIPS

**BY TOP CHOICE**

**Race 1**—(Qrt/Tri)—St. Emilion (4), Heart Of The Wind (1), Sgt. Marangal (5), Noble Principality (7)

**Race 2**—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Selectee (2), Tribeca (6), Mr. Gee/Class Action (3), Rock Attack Attack (1), Scarlet Skyterror (5)

**Race 3**—(Qrt/Tri)—Madel Line (3), Summit Force (4), Vhingget (6), Ynakee CLipper (2))

**Race 4**—(Qrt/Tri)—Smiling Jaeda (3), House Of Riches (5), High Pocket (6), Golden Harry (1)

**Race 5**—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Pure Energy (8), Sea Of Galilee (10), Rho Sig (9), She Boom (7), Premiere Act (5), Seeing Red (4)

**Race 6**—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bloodline (7), Divine Diva (2), Dashing (9), Do It david (8), Take Ten (1)

**Race 7**—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Stream Time (6), The Dominaor (3), God Is Good (7), Sovereign Dancer (8), Reign Of D'Jungle (1)

**Race 8**—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Gallant Warrior (13), Sweet Talk (1), Sound Of Silence (5), Makati Haven (4), Real Tough (8), Quick Play (9)

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

## NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

| Name and address of Company/Employer | Name of Foreign National | Position |
|---|---|---|
| GE MONEY BANK, INC.<br>E. Rodriguez cor. Monte de Piedad St., Cubao, Quezon City | Brian Russell Hachez | Chief Risk Officer |
| SUMISETSU PHILIPPINES INC.<br>146 Valero St., Salcedo Vill., Makati City | Takatoshi Sakaguchi | Project Manager |
| SOUTHEAST ASIAN AIRLINES (SEAir), INC.<br>2/F Dona Concepcion Bldg., 1020 Arnaiz Ave., San Lorenzo Village, Makati City | Ryoichi Motoyoshi | First Officer |
| FIL-STAR MARITIME CORPORATION<br>Room 1000, 10/F Victoria Bldg., 429 U.N. Ave., Ermita, Manila | Takao Ikedo | Director |
| SINGAPORE SCHOOL MANILA, INC.<br>Lots 4-5, Block 5, Paseo de Magallanes, Makati City | Ng Ban Wah | Math Teacher / Academic Coordinator |
| TAS PLAN INC.<br>23/F Equitable Bank Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Salcedo Vill., Makati City | Ichiro Aoki | CAD Manager of Design Division |
| KEYMAXX CORPORATION<br>Unit 605 Summit 1 Office Tower, 530 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City | So Hyun Ahn | Keymaxx Cam Engineer |
| PHILIPPINE FOREMOST MILLING CORPORATION<br>Lot 2&3, Block 1, B.V. Romero Blvd., Manila Harbour Centre, Radial Road 10, Vitas, Tondo, Manila | Imat Syukur Nasution | Assistant Vice President of Operations |
| NOKIA SIEMENS NETWORKS PHILIPPINES, INC.<br>20/F Philam Life Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City | Matti Tapani Sairanen | AD Globe & Net Country Director |
| HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES INC.<br>53/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City | Weijun Yin | Service Account Manager |
| PACCAR MERCHANDISING<br>317 Rizal Ave. Ext., Bet. 4th & 5th Avenue, Grace Park, Caloocan City | Xunqi Zheng | Sales Consultant |
| CROWN WORLDWIDE MOVERS, INC.<br>Panorama Compd., Km. 18, West Service Rd., South Superhighway, Sucat, Parañaque City | Rolf Bernhard Beutel | Sales Consultant |
| CJ GLS PHILIPPINES INC.<br>6/F Builders Centre, 170 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City | Su Jin Park | Senior Manager |
| CJ GLS PHILIPPINES INC.<br>6/F Builders Centre, 170 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City | Eunsil Kim | Asst. Manager |
| JAPAN AIRLINES INTERNATIONAL CO., LTD.<br>2/F 6788 Ayala Ave., Makati City | Hideo Kosaka | Station Manager |

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

**The DOLE conducts free seminar on Labor-Human Relations and Productivity. For more information, please call 339-2013 & 303-5920.**

LOURDES M. TRASMONTE
Regional Director

(PDI-May 8, 2007)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES
OFFICE OF THE AFP BID AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

## INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

*(PROCUREMENT OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT)*

1. The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), through the ***Special Allotment Release Order Nr. D-07-00818***, intends to apply the sum of ***FOUR MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP 4,820,000.00)*** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the corresponding contract for the ***Supply and Delivery of Defense Equipment***. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Armed Forces of the Philippines, through the GHQ BAC1, now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the following project:

| Item Nr | Nomenclature / Activity | Approved Budget for the Contract | Price of Bid Documents | Delivery Schedule |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | GHQ BAC1-MOD-PAF-04-07<br>29 units VHF-UHF Repeater Acquisition Project | P 4,820,000.00 | Php 3,000.00 | To be delivered w/in 90 calendar days upon receipt of NTP or Letter of Credit, whichever comes last. |

3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, corporation with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or corporations of a country the laws and regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who would be determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from AFP BAC Secretariat and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday excluding holidays.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee. The method of payment will be in the form of cash only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The AFP will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on 9:00 a.m., May 15, 2007 at the *Silid Panday Pira*, G/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 9:00 a.m., **May 28, 2007**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any form and corresponding amount allowed under RA 9184 and its IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **9:00 a.m., May 28, 2007** at the ***Silid Panday Pira*, G/F Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City**. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. Only offers or bids from suppliers who are themselves the manufacturers, distributors, integrators or their duly authorized representatives shall be entertained. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking similar projects within the last five (5) years with at least twenty five (25) percent (for single project) and fifty (50) percent (for accumulated projects) of the proposed project for bidding.
10. To facilitate eligibility checking, manufacturers and/or prospective bidders who wish to participate in the public bidding may apply for registration with the AFP BAC through the **GHQ BAC1 Secretariat** as early as possible but not later than three (3) days prior to the scheduled submission and opening of bids.
11. The AFP reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bids, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

**Office of the AFP Bids and Awards Committee**
G/F Bulwagang Syquio
Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City
Contact Person: ***Ms Edna B Malonzo***
Tel. Nr: 911-6001 Loc 6486 / 6487
Fax Nr: 911-6001 Loc 6485
Email Add: **malonzo499@yahoo.com.ph**

(Sgd.) RADM ALFREDO D ABUEG, JR AFP
Chairman, GHQ BAC 1

(PDI – May 8, 2007)

# Soguilon targets Olympic berth

By Marc Anthony Reyes

RALPH WALDY SOGUILON IS ALREADY looking past the Thailand Southeast Asian Games this December where he will finally compete as a full-pledged sprinter.

Soguilon recently informed his father Waldemer during a break from his three-month training/competition schedule in Los Angeles that he will try to qualify for the 2008 Olympics to culminate his stint under Fil-American coach and trainer Gerry Cablayan.

"They will try to get through the Olympic 200-meter standard which is 20.8 seconds," said the elder Soguilon of his 23-year-old son, who now holds the national records in the 100 and 200 meters.

After clocking 21.05 seconds recently, Waldemer said his son felt confident he could further improve.

While all Olympic countries are required to field at least two athletes in the centerpiece events of track and field and swimming regardless of their records, Soguilon wants to secure an Olympic berth on his own merit.

"I'm training very hard right now and I think my times improved a lot because I get to compete with the best athletes. I don't get this level of competition back home," Soguilon, quoted by his father, said.

Soguilon submitted improved times in the 100 and 200 recently but the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association has yet to recognize the new feats, especially in the 200m which Soguilon admitted was "wind-aided."

Soguilon ran 10.45 seconds in the century dash, further improving the 10.49 he established last month in a different meet. The effort allowed him to finish second in his heat during the Claremont Classic at Burns track and field complex in California.

He submitted his 21.05 clocking in the 200 in the same meet, which is faster than the 21.17 RP mark he now holds.

# PSC: Athletes dorm planned

By June Navarro

A THREE-STAR HOTEL-TYPE DORMITORY capable of housing at least 500 athletes will soon rise inside the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex.

Philippine Sports Commission chair William "Butch" Ramirez yesterday announced the planned construction of the athletes' dormitory at the back of the tennis center inside the complex that will have a swimming pool, multi-purpose hall, conference room and a cafeteria.

Ramirez said the ambitious project will be financed by the Federation of the Philippine-American Chamber of Commerce.

The PSC top honcho has had initial talks with FPACC president Yolanda Stern a few months ago before obtaining a commitment from the Los Angeles-based organization.

"We will probably begin the project right after the elections," said Ramirez.

The dormitory that will occupy a total land area of 800 square meters was a project of former PSC chair Eric Buhain, which was shelved after the former swim star was appointed chair of the Games and Amusements Board.

Ramirez said around P70 million is needed to build the dormitory, which will have at least four floors.

Also nearing completion is a 24-hour cafeteria worth P10 million.

The PSC is likewise set to upgrade the facilities at the Philippine Center for Sports Medicine aside from the Philippine Institute for Sports inside the Philsports Arena at a cost of P15 million.

TIGER Woods celebrates after his latest conquest. AFP

# Woods rides 60-foot eagle to latest title

**CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA—Tiger Woods added the Wachovia Championship to his growing collection of trophies Sunday with a 60-foot eagle putt to take the lead, a double bogey that kept it interesting, and by avoiding the kind of calamity that doomed his challengers down the stretch.**

Backed by a two-shot lead on the toughest hole on the course, Woods played it safe and made par from 8 feet to close with a 3-under 69 for a two-shot victory over Steve Stricker.

It was Woods' third victory this year, and his ninth on the US tour in his last 12 starts dating to his missed cut in the US Open. He finished at 13-under 275, the lowest score to win the tournament, and earned $1.134 million for the 57th victory of his career. He also went atop the FedEx Cup standings for the first time this season.

"Over the course of my career, I've won a few tournaments here and there, and it's been nice," Woods said. "This one, considering the field and the golf course and the conditions, ecstatic to have won here."

Stricker had his best chance to win for the first time since 2001, one shot behind with three holes to play. He hit into the trees and the sand on the 16th on his way to double bogey, recovered with a 30-foot birdie on the 17th, then lost all hope when he went for the flag on the 18th and hit into the creek. He shot 69.

Rory Sabbatini, who said he wanted Woods in the final pairing, didn't make a par until the 10th hole and closed with a 74 to tie for third with Phil Mickelson, who closed with a 70 but was never a factor.

The Wachovia Championship is only five years old but already regarded one of the best stops on the PGA Tour with its world-class course and strong field—only the Masters and two World Golf Championships had more top players. Of its five winners, four are major champions.

Woods narrowly went into the water off the tee at the par-5 No. 7, then watched a 60-foot putt roll down the ridge and into the cup for eagle and his lead.

He never trailed again. He followed that with two birdies to close out the front nine in 31.

Then, he hung on for the victory. Woods blew a three-shot lead with six holes to play when he took double bogey with a three-putt on the 13th, and Stricker made a 5-foot birdie on the 15th ahead of him.

"I thought if I could even par, I could have a chance," Stricker said.

Vijay Singh, who briefly held the lead with a short birdie on the seventh, couldn't make up ground and finished with a bogey on the 16th and a triple bogey on the 18th when he twice hit into the water. He shot 74 and fell five places to a tie for seventh.

Sabbatini had a one-shot lead to start the final round, but was four behind at the turn. *AP*

# Oscar wasn't given enough credit—Roach

LAS VEGAS—OSCAR DE LA HOYA WAS not given enough credit by the judges for his aggression in Saturday's World Boxing Council super welterweight showdown, according to the fighter's trainer Freddie Roach.

Although "Golden Boy" De La Hoya lost his title on a split decision to Floyd Mayweather Jr., Roach believes the popular Mexican-American did enough in the final round of a fluctuating contest to retain the crown.

"In the early rounds, Oscar pressed the issue and I felt that if we didn't push the issue, there would be no fight," Roach told Reuters after Mayweather won a tight verdict from two of the three judges at the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino.

"The close rounds I gave to Oscar because he was very aggressive. In 10 and 11, he lost those big but then he came back and won 12 and I thought he did enough to win the fight."

The heavier De La Hoya was the aggressor for most of the fight, continually forcing the defense-minded Mayweather to back pedal, and was ahead on points after the first seven rounds.

Although his younger opponent then took control with his lighting speed and several telling combinations, De La Hoya won the 12th and final round after a furious flurry of close-range punches by both fighters.

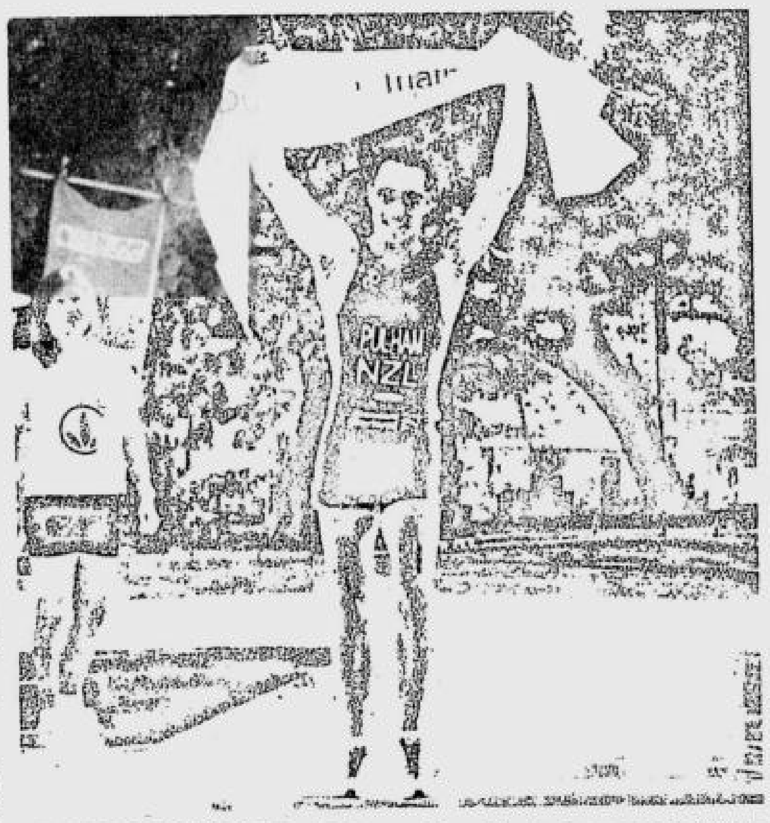
"I told Oscar we needed that last round," Roach said. "A knockout? No. I didn't feel it was necessary at that point and I'm always very honest with my fighters.

"We definitely won the last round but what can you do?"

Roach and De La Hoya had worked hard on a pre-fight strategy to cramp the smaller Mayweather in the ring with a tight defense before peppering him with punches once in range.

The ploy worked like a dream for the first seven rounds in front of a capacity crowd of 16,200.

"I was very satisfied at that point," said Roach, who took over in De La Hoya's corner from Floyd Mayweather Sr. *Reuters*



**TRIATHLON CHAMP:** Ben Pulham of New Zealand crosses the finish line on the way to ruling the 13th Subic Bay International Triathlon.

# Manchester U tops Premier League

LONDON—MANCHESTER UNITED'S TITLES have come at an impressive rate in the last 15 years or so.

The latest one could be even more satisfying than the previous 19.

United won its ninth Premier League title and 16th overall Sunday with two games to go after two-time defending champion Chelsea was held to a 1-1 draw at Arsenal.

"Over the last two years, Chelsea has dominated the Premier League. And yes, we had a big job to do to catch up with them," United manager Alex Ferguson said. "The key was having a good start to the season and trying to stay with them. And I think we did that very well."

During United's reign as perennial champion throughout much of the 1990s and into the 21st century, the team was hated by many for being a big-spending club that hoarded top players.

That's a description that now suits Chelsea, which ended a 50-year title drought in 2005 and then added another last year.

"It's not easy in the Premier League to keep a lead knowing that Chelsea are on your coat-tails all the time," said Ferguson, who has had to overcome injuries to his team all season. "At one point, we had eight players injured and we don't have as big a squad as Chelsea. But credit to the 13 or 14 players who dug it out every week for us, getting the results." *AP*

## WNC booters cop SMB beach title

BACOLOD CITY-BASED WEST NEGROS COLLEGE FOUGHT BACK FROM A GOAL DOWN TWICE TO edge Philippine Army, 3-2, Sunday and rule the San Miguel Beer National Beach Football championship in Boracay Island. Robert Cañedo scored two goals, including the title-clinching free kick from 15 yards out with four minutes left. WNC playing-coach Norman Fegidero made it 2-all early in the second half, after Army, led by former national team players Wilson dela Cruz and Roel Gener, took a 2-1 lead at halftime. Army reached the final of the five-team tournament by beating Bacolod United on penalties, while West Negros downed Cravings of San Carlos, 3-1. WNC also defeated Coco Mangas, 3-1, and drew with Bacolod United 1-all.

*Cedell P. Tupas, Inquirer Visayas*

# Where will RP athletes get P250 million?

THE FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN OF the Philippine Sports Commission for the country's bets to the 2008 Beijing Olympics has been moved to a date after the May 14 elections or, after First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, the chief financier of the athletes' training for the Games, has completely recovered from a recent open-heart surgery.

"We have to look for private sponsors," Philippine Olympic Committee chair Robert Aventajado told National Sports Association (NSAs) officials recently, adding that they should not depend on the government for monetary assistance all the time.

PSC chair William "Butch" Ramirez said about P250 million will be needed for the Olympic preparation of the Philippine team, stressing that most of the money would be spent on the training overseas of selected athletes. But, where will the cash-strapped agency get that kind of money?

At any rate, Ramirez said the PSC will source out the funds for the training of these athletes and coaches. "We will honor our commitment to send the athletes abroad for training."

Fine.

As I have often said, when you have no choice, you have to find solutions. A dedicated, honest and imaginative sports leader will always find solutions to his many needs in order to survive. Now, more than ever, we need the support of the private sector to keep our Olympic participation alive. And, please *lang*, let's keep politics out of the program.

Olympic medals are not won by politicians but by athletes who spend time and effort in order to bring honor and glory to our God-forsaken country.

Aventajado, who heads the taekwondo association, said among the sports with the biggest chances of winning the country's first-ever Olympic gold medal are boxing and taekwondo.

**CLEAN LIVING**

*Manolo R. Iñigo*

***

**I WOULD like to greet the low-key George Chua, franchise owner of the Red Bull Barako team in the PBA, a belated happy birthday. One of the best-loved team owners in the professional league, Sir George is sincere and honest in dealing with people, always speaking in measured tone and avoiding personal attacks in stressing his point.**

**I would also like to extend the best of luck to a longtime friend, bowling champion Paeng Nepomuceno, for being appointed recently as a United States Bowling Congress ambassador. A four-time Bowling World Cup winner, he is truly deserving of the USBC appointment.**

**Kudos, too, to Red Bull's 6-for-6 center Rico Villanueva for being named the 12th and final player of the all-pro Philippine team competing in the Fiba-Asia Champion's Cup championship. It is the first tournament for the RP five which is hoping to qualify for the Beijing Olympics next year. Villanueva replaced Barangay Ginebra's Rudy Hatfield, who begged off due to his forthcoming marriage abroad.**

**"It's an honor to be playing for my country," said Villanueva, a former Ateneo Blue Eagle.**

***

THE MILO BEST Center basketball clinic goes out of town with the staging of the popular youth-oriented program on May 15-20 at the Laguna State Polytechnic College in San Pablo City in Laguna.

Interested parties may sign up at Anya's Place, A. Bonifacio Street in San Pablo City or call BJ Cuello at 240-5377 or cell 0927-3215589 and Milo BEST coach Manu Iñigo 0927-5604612.

Aimed primarily at getting the youth into sports and keeping them away from drugs during the summer vacation, the pioneering basketball clinic was founded in 1978 by Nic Jorge, a former varsity cager of the University of the Philippines and coach of the RP team that competed in the 1978 World Basketball Championship held here.

Since the center's founding, many of its products have used their experience as a ladder to success, among them two-time PBA Most Valuable Player Benjie Paras, PBA Coach of the Year Perry Ronquillo, defense specialist Jerry Codiñera, sweet-shooting Paolo Mendoza and Rey Evangelista.

# SPORTS

# James bucks cold—and cold shooting—to power Cavs past Nets

CLEVELAND, OHIO—THE CLEVELAND Cavaliers overcame lackluster shooting to defeat the New Jersey Nets, 81-77, Sunday in the opener of their National Basketball Association Eastern Conference second-round playoff series.

Drew Gooden had 14 points and 14 rebounds, helping the Cavaliers cash in on second chances and hold on for the victory.

LeBron James had 21 points, 11 boards and seven assists for the second-seeded Cavs, who remained unbeaten in the postseason despite shooting just 40 percent from the field.

James, feeling the effects of a cold, made just 8-of-21 shots.

"It's the playoffs, you have to battle through it," James said. "No matter what it took, I was going to be out on the court helping my teammates get a win."

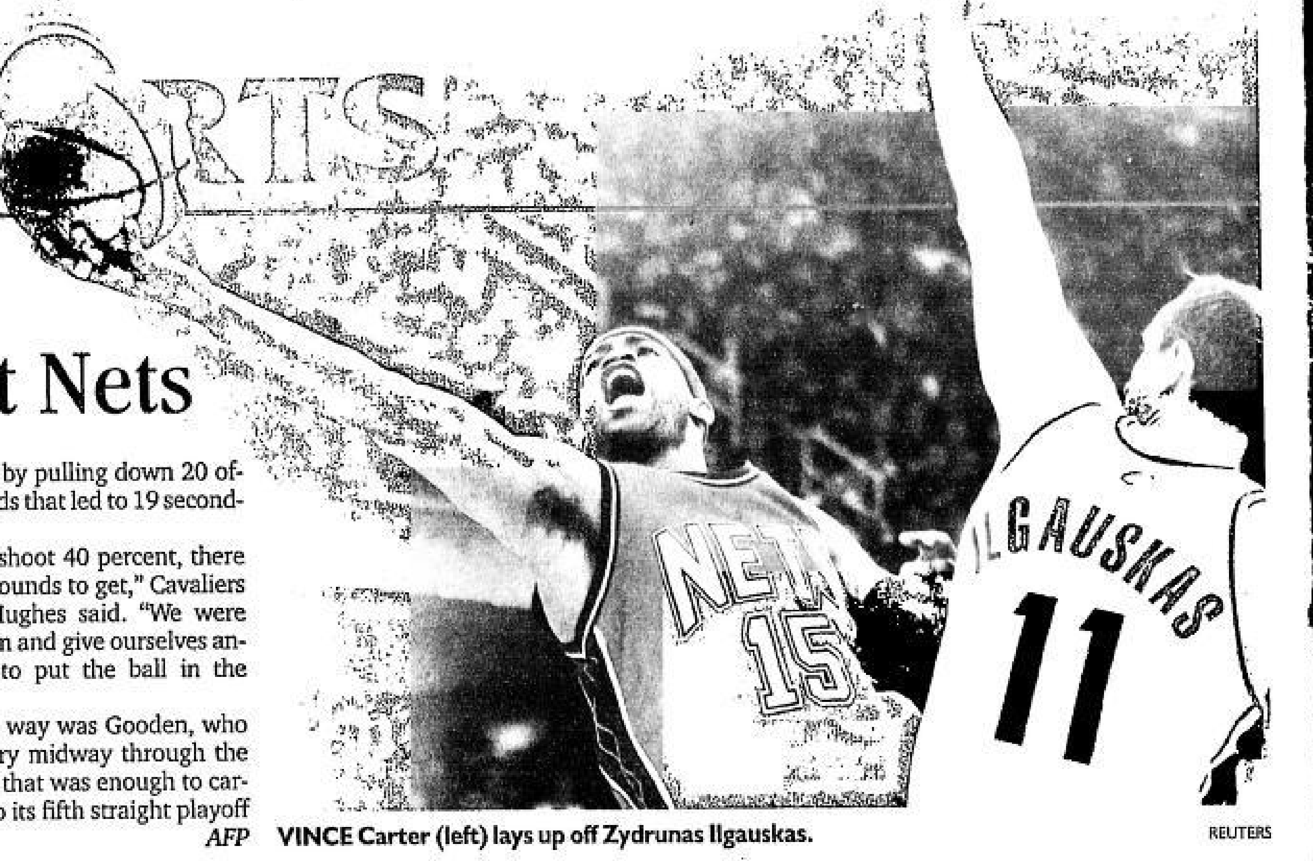
The Cavaliers were playing for the first time in six days and appeared to be ripe to be upset by the Nets, who are in the conference semi-finals for the fifth time in six years.

But Cleveland minimized the effect of their misses by pulling down 20 offensive rebounds that led to 19 second-chance points.

"When you shoot 40 percent, there are a lot of rebounds to get," Cavaliers guard Larry Hughes said. "We were able to get them and give ourselves another chance to put the ball in the bucket."

Leading the way was Gooden, who sparked a flurry midway through the fourth quarter that was enough to carry Cleveland to its fifth straight playoff victory.

*AFP*



**VINCE Carter (left) lays up off Zydrunas Ilgauskas.** REUTERS

What makes these Iron Ladies reach great heights?
Strength inside and out.

*Iberet Active salutes the First Pinay Everest Team*
Noelle Wenceslao • Carina Dayondon • Janet Belarmino

Meet the first Pinay Everest Team - Janet Belarmino - a first-time mom to her 3-month old baby; Noelle Wenceslao, a Math and Science whiz kid; and Carina Dayondon, a member of the Philippine Coast Guard.

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Plus Iberet Active also has Vitamin C and B Complex for more energy and a stronger immune system.

So for strength inside and out, like these Iron Ladies have, take Iberet Active everyday.

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# Spurs shock Suns

**GAMES TODAY (*Basketball TV*)**
8 a.m.—Chicago vs Detroit
10:30 a.m.—Golden State vs Utah

**PHOENIX, ARIZONA—THE SAN ANTONIO Spurs left the Phoenix Suns bloodied and beaten Sunday as they seized the lead in their National Basketball Association Western Conference semifinal series.**

Steve Nash suffered a bleeding gash on his nose in a fourth-quarter collision, and his absence from the floor cost the Suns as they failed to execute down the stretch of a 111-106 loss to the Spurs in game one of the best-of-seven second-round series.

Tim Duncan had 33 points and 16 rebounds and Tony Parker added 32 and eight assists for the third-seeded Spurs, who have now won their last five playoff games in Phoenix dating to 2003.

"We'd rather play in the 80s or 90s (points scored). That's our type of game," Duncan said.

The contrast in styles between the run-and-gun Suns and the defensive-minded Spurs produced another thrilling contest. There were eight lead changes and three ties in the fourth quarter.

The key moment came midway through the period, when Nash and Parker collided head-first.

"I know we hit our heads really hard," Nash said. "He looked like he was really hurting so I just wanted to make sure he was OK."

"I thought I was bleeding," Parker said.

Parker stayed on the floor for a moment and ended up with a swollen bruise on his forehead. Nash had a gash across the bridge of his nose that would not stop bleeding despite treatment at nearly every break in the game.

He required six stitches afterward.

"It was just a big gash apparently and wide and deep and we couldn't get it to stop bleeding and there wasn't a lot of time left so we didn't think we had time to go in and stitch it up, so we tried to manage it," Nash said.

Between changes of the bandage, the two-time MVP kept the Suns in the game. He scored seven straight points for Phoenix, including a 3-pointer that forged a 102-102 tie with 2:23 to play.

Duncan made a tough one-handed shot in the lane and Parker drilled a jumper before Nash responded with a scoop layup to cut the deficit to 106-104 with 1:13 remaining.

"He's a trooper by getting back in there and making some plays," Duncan said.

*AFP*

# *Yankees lure 'Rocket' back for $28 million*

NEW YORK—BASEBALL'S BALANCE OF power may have shifted back New York's way when future Hall-of-Famer Roger Clemens told a crowd of 52,553 in the Bronx that he would join a Yankee bullpen that is currently struggling with injuries.

"They came and got me out of Texas," Clemens said over a microphone from owner George Steinbrenner's box during the seventh-inning stretch of Sunday's game against Seattle.

"It's a privilege to be back."

"The Rocket" did not come cheaply.

The burly right-hander with a career mark of 348-178 and second all-time in strikeouts will earn a $28 million salary—the highest in baseball—prorated based on the date he joins the major league roster.

*Reuters*

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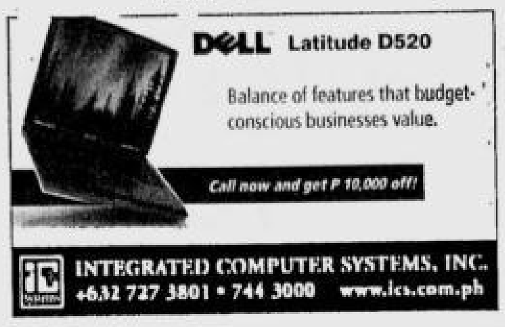

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# BUSINESS

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Swabe ang dating. Lakas ng hatak.
Max. Diesel Max.
PETRON DIESEL MAX

# Farm sector grew 3.55% in 1st quarter

## Fisheries, crops, livestock lead expansion

**By Amy R. Remo**

THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR GREW 3.55 PERcent in the first quarter this year due largely to sustained expansion of the fishery, crops, livestock and poultry sectors.

"Although the first quarter of 2006 posted a higher growth of 3.91 percent, this quarter's growth showed a sustained uptrend for different subsectors, so we can expect more encouraging figures for the first half of the year," Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said yesterday.

Gross value of agricultural output amounted to P243.2 billion, a 4.78-percent increase from last year's 232.1 billion.

Yap stressed the need to put in place sufficient infrastructure and post-harvest facilities such as dryers to prepare the country for the onslaught of the rainy reason and sustain the farm sector's growth.

FARM/ B2

**IN THIS ISSUE**

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**There's no fuel** like an old fuel /B4

## GSIS in talks to buy Amari land

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE System, with P200 billion in investible funds, wants to venture heavily into the real estate business.

GSIS president and general manager Winston Garcia said his office was in talks with the Philippine Reclamation Authority (PRA) on the possible purchase of nearly 800 hectares of land previously involved in the PEA-Amari scam.

Garcia said the GSIS was also negotiating with the agriculture department on the purchase of the 100-hectare property of Food Terminals Inc. (FTI) in Taguig City.

He said the pension fund could venture into developing these pieces of property, possibly into residential and commercial areas, and then sell over the long term when prices have gone up.

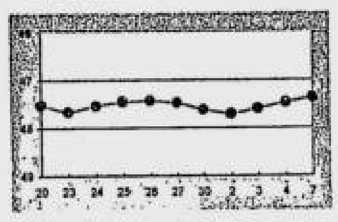
Asked how much the GSIS was willing to invest in the real estate business, Garcia said he was not looking at any limits as long as it was within the pension fund's capability to pay.

Garcia said the GSIS was looking for financial advisers for P100 billion of its total investible funds. He said that aside from investing in real estate, the pension fund could also allot some of its funds for investments in for-

GSIS/ B4

## INDICATORS

### CURRENCIES



APRIL MAY

**PESO-DOLLAR RATE**

P 47.365 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., May 7, 2007

¥ 119.93 = $ 1

As of 5 p.m., May 7, 2007

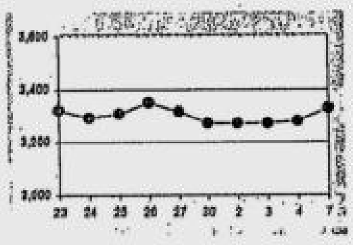
GOLD: **$688.70-689.20**

per ounce Hong Kong, May 7, 2007

### STOCK MARKET

**PSE COMPOSITE INDEX**

APRIL MAY



(See stock market report on Page B4)

## Shares close higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 1.57-percent higher yesterday, extending gains in line with regional markets after another record breaking Wall Street performance Friday, dealers said.

The composite index finished up 51.41 points at 3,329.89, just off the day's high of 3,330.58. It hit a low of 3,278.48.

The broader all-share index rose 21.82 points to 2,111.49.

Gainers led losers 60 to 44, with 63 stocks unchanged.

Turnover was 3.12 billion shares worth P4.89 billion.

"Investors saw bargain-hunting opportunities following last week's consolidation, especially in companies that are expected to do well this year based on the first-quarter results that are trickling in," said Astro del Castillo of First Grade Holdings.

However, he said that with only seven days to go before the May 14 mid-term congressional elections, investors might be tempted to lock in profits quickly.

Bank of the Philippine Islands jumped P4.50 to P68.50 after the nation's second largest lender reported a 28-percent year-on-year increase in net profit to P3.2 billion in the three months to March. *AFP*

The HONDA CIVIC - A True Mark of Excellence at the 2006 Car of the Year Awards

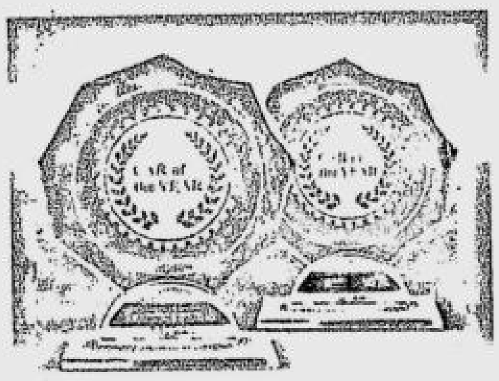
The recently concluded 3rd Car Of The Year-Philippines (COTY-P) Awards stood as a firm vestige of Honda's supremacy in the auto industry here in the country. Entered in the awards alongside Honda's two other models: Honda Accord (Executive Car Category) and Honda Pilot (Luxury SUV Category), the Honda Civic was bestowed the coveted Car of the Year award, besting all other models and makes both in and outside of its category.

Honda Civic has earned the affirming nods of the Car Awards Group Inc. (CAGI)—COTY-P's officiating body comprised of esteemed motoring journalists from various publications, television car programs and online media. Through seven weekends spanning from November 2006 to February 2007 the CAGI review board conducted a rigorous instrumented and qualitative testing of the participating cars' key features and overall performance. Representatives from the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP) were also present to oversee the test proceedings. Results were then audited by the renowned assurance service firm Sycip Gorres Velayo & Co. (SGV). The Civic has easily bested two other car makes in the Compact Car category, and has successfully outdone all 37 cars from different classes for the Car Of The Year. This is an outstanding follow-up to Honda's victory with the Accord V6 for the same title at the very first Car Of The Year-Philippines Awards last 2004.

Quality in workmanship and over-all performance proved to be the Civic's key factor in winning the coveted Car of the Year Award. But with all the top rate features bundled in this high performance sedan, the Honda Civic comes with an amazingly cost-friendly price tag. It is this merit that also titled the new Civic "Best Value for Money"—one of COTY-P's four special awards. Even in international regions, the Civic has been receiving numerous accolades for performance and value. Credits include 2006 Car of the Year from Car News International-Taiwan, Autocar Asean's Overall Winner Car of the Year-Malaysia, JAHFA (Japan Automotive Hall of Fame Award) Car of the Year, Auto Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) Car of the Year, Motortrend Car of the Year-North America, and many other honors from various organizations all over the world.

Visit your nearest Honda dealer and experience first-hand the award-wining performance and value of the Honda Civic.

CAR of the YEAR
THE YEAR AWARD



Honda Civic's badges of honor for 2006: Best Compact Car of the Year and Best Value for Money

## *Maynilad seen out of rehab by July*

**By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson**

THE DMCI HOLDINGS INC.-METRO PACIFIC Investments Corp. consortium is optimistic it can take Maynilad Water Services Inc., which runs the water concession for the west zone of Metro Manila, out of the rehabilitation stage by July.

In preparation to this, DMCI chief finance officer Herbert Consunji said Maynilad was proposing to issue preferred shares to raise $280 million that would be used to pay Maynilad debts to creditors, including the government.

DMCI-MPIC is also seeking the government's approval for its plan to maintain Maynilad's operational targets as prescribed in the debt and capital restructuring agreement (DCRA).

DMCI and MPIC, with an offer of $447.23 million, won last year's auction for the government's 83.9-percent stake in Maynilad.

The consortium will take over and continue operations of the west zone for the remaining years of the 25-year concession.

Maynilad owes $300 million to foreign banks and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System. It also has to pay the government $56.4 million in concession fees.

The debt payment burden following the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis resulted in heavy losses for Maynilad, then under the Lopez-led Benpre Holding Corp., with former parent, and led to its rehabilitation.

The Maynilad concession area covers 10 cities and seven municipalities and serves eight million customers.

# Forex reserves hit $25B in April

## Enough to cover 4.7 months' worth of imported goods and services

**By Michelle V. Remo**

THE COUNTRY'S GROSS INTERNATIONAL reserves (GIR) recorded an all-time high of $25.027 billion in end-April, as foreign investments continued to pour in.

As of end of the first quarter, the forex reserves level was $24.7 billion.

"The robust foreign exchange inflows continued during the month (April) as investor sentiment remained strong given the country's solid macroeconomic fundamentals," the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in a statement.

The BSP also said the GIR level was also boosted by the central bank's income from foreign exchange operations and investments abroad.

A new record was achieved, it said, despite the prepayment of BSP and national government debts.

The BSP prepaid in April $130 million worth of debt that was supposed to fall due in October, while the national government settled $126 million worth of Brady bonds due in June 2018.

The GIR is the amount of a country's foreign currency holdings. It indicates the country's ability to cover importation and debt servicing and to protect the local currency from speculations and the volatility of the foreign exchange market.

The BSP said the latest GIR figure was enough to cover 4.7 months worth of imported goods and payments of services. It is also equivalent to five times the country's short-term debt based on original maturity and 2.7 times based on residual maturity.

Short-term debt based on on residual maturity refers to outstanding external debt with original maturity of one year or less, plus principal payments on medium- and long-term loans of the public and private sectors falling due within the next 12 months.

Of the $25-billion reserves, foreign investments accounted for $21.382 billion.

Foreign investments in April represented a 3-percent increase from the $20.804 billion as of end-March, and a 24-percent rise from the $17.204 billion posted in April last year.

The Arroyo administration credits improved macroeconomic fundamentals, such as the decline in the budget deficit and slowdown in inflation, for the strong inflow of foreign investments during the period.

## Cool off duties

**BREAKTIME**

*Conrado R. Banal III*

TRYING TO RID THE CUSTOMS BUREAU OF redtape, two members of the "Hyatt 10" are teaming up in a hi-tech project for the agency.

They are former Customs Commissioner Bert Lina and former Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno, who served this cute administration of Gloriaetta. That is, of course, until they decided to resign at the height of the "Hello, Garci" scandal.

Maybe for Parayno and Lina, duty to country still calls. Or the heat from the "Hyatt 10" incident already cooled off.

Whatever, though, a company called "e-Connect," belonging to the Lina group, hired Parayno (who is an automation expert). The company has the contract to automate the BOC process in releasing shipments and in computing duties and taxes.

From what I hear, the project is employing hi-tech systems, such as the use of bar codes, which are expected to lead to paperless transactions at the BOC.

Hopefully, the project should unglue most of the redtape at customs, which should result in less hassle for business and, thus, less corruption at the bureau.

In an "unofficial" military intelligence report, for instance, two Cabinet members were said to be getting monthly "tara" (i.e. cut in the corruption) from BOC officials.

The two Cabinet members, acting as *padrinos*, supposedly put those BOC officials in their current lucrative posts.

Gloriaetta of course is clueless!

***

Specifically targeted in the Lina-Parayno project are shipments for companies registered with the Philippine Export Zone Authority.

Word goes around that several Taiwanese electronics companies plan to relocate to the so-called Subic-Clark industrial corridor.

Such a large industrial area, similar to the Calabarzon, is expected to arise in Central Luzon upon the completion of the Subic-Clark-Tarlac expressway.

The automation project thus is expected to speed up, for instance, the release of raw materials for those Taiwanese electronics firms.

Maybe it will also eliminate the need for the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's "business" with the BOC to facilitate faster release of goods at the piers, which created a new career for guys who proclaimed themselves "business leaders." You know, the "three stooges" among them!

***

Somebody called us up, claiming she is the PR of Star Paper, which has cornered the supply of security paper to Bangko Sentral for more than 10 years now.

She said Star Paper, owned by the family of Sebastian Chua, has been a long-time local agent of European firm Arjo Wiggins.

That is exactly the point!

Arjo Wiggins has been supplying the BSP 'laminates' for our passports at a cost of $1.26 per. Other suppliers in Europe, which offer even more security features than those from Star Paper-Arjo Wiggins, can sell the same thing at 50 cents at the most.

In other words, the two paper companies, one local and one foreign, in cooperation with the BSP, have been making a lot of money—at our expense, of course—for the past 10 years or so!

And neither the BSP nor the DFA (which collects from us the overpriced passport fees) are bothered by it?

***

The country's financial center, the city of Makati, may need a financial restructuring of its own.

According to reports, the city government recorded debts of P108 million in 2004, which became P52 million in 2005.

This, mind you, is the city with the second-highest income in the entire country!

Worse, the city government reportedly was only kept afloat by a P26-million aid (okay, a "grant") from abroad.

The worst news to those doing billion-peso deals in the financial district is the report that the Makati City hall failed to remit to the BIR some P1 billion in income tax withheld from employees from 1999 to 2002.

Those were only three years. So how much does the city government owe the BIR, say, from 2003 to 2007? Another P1-P2 billion?

Plus, Makati City Councilor Oscar Ibay says city hall employees do not even have TINs with the BIR.

So what does the city do with its income—give Christmas gifts to senior citizens, and that's it?

***

This cute administration says that 267 mayors, who are all pro-Gloriaetta, are running either "unopposed" or with "token" opposition in these elections.

The Palace also estimates that those mayors have about 5.6 million voters in their areas, and they should supposedly deliver the "command votes" for this cute administration's senatorial bets.

Hmm. I thought the Palace's claim sounds more solid than what the opposition is trying to sell to the public. You know—some surveys about how many of us expect this cute administration to cheat!

But like it or not, the so-called "command votes" have been part of politics in this country.

Is that cheating or not? Well, even those in the opposition have them, right!

***

This crook at the LTFRB (Land Transportation Franchise and Regulatory Board) is using the name of Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza, claiming the ex-police chief is his *padrino*.

Already fired by the LTFRB chief, the son of his mother is now back, apparently reinstated with the help of some higher-ups at the DOTC.

Word is that two taxi companies now fear for their business lives. Our hero is accusing them of having squealed on him about the P35,000 "facilitation fee" for the franchise of each of their taxi units—which run by the hundreds.

I mean, do you really think that Mendoza has anything to do with such a terrific swell guy? Fire him again, boss!

## Robinsons Land acquires another Fort Boni prime lot

ROBINSONS LAND CORP., THE PROPERTY arm of billionaire John Gokongwei Jr. bought a one-ha prime lot at the Fort Bonifacio Global City for P1 billion.

In a statement, RLC said this would bring RLC's property acquisitions in the business district to about 2 ha.

Bounded by two major streets, the 9,819- sq. m. property is located in the prime section of the Bonifacio Global City (BGC) South District.

"This latest acquisition demonstrates RLC's continued confidence in the company's projects and the country's property sector," RLC president Frederick D. Go said.

With the new property, RLC is now finalizing the master plan for the Global City property.

The construction of a three-tower residential condominium—called Trion Towers—forms part of this plan.

The three towers will be put up in triangle formation and will be linked by a bridgeway.

RLC is targeting as Trion Towers market Filipino-Americans, *balikbayans*, professionals, investors and expatriates. *Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson*

## Farm sector ...

From page B1

He added that he was targeting an increase in the number of irrigation areas to be repaired and rehabilitated to 75,000 hectares from 55,000 hectares in preparation for the coming dry season till 2008.

"We are looking at allotting additional budgets of about P40 million for the Bureau of Post Harvest Research and Extension to address cold chain storage needs, and about P100 million for the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources," Yap said.

He reported that for the first quarter of the year, the crops, livestock and poultry sectors registered production increases of 2 percent, while the fishery sector proved to be the biggest gainer with a growth of 8.52 percent.

The fishery sector, which accounted for 23.68 percent of the total agricultural output, performed well as production value amounted to P43.67 billion, up 10.3 percent from P39.58 billion in the same period last year.

Commercial fishing posted the biggest production increase as volume reached 275,920 metric tons, a 13.29-percent increase from last year's 243,550 metric tons. Favorable weather conditions contributed to better catch this quarter and encouraged more fishing trips.

Accounting for 49 percent of total agricultural output, the crops sector grew at a slower rate of 2.01 percent, lower than last year's 6.20 percent. Gross revenues from crop production reached P130 billion at current prices, or 2.22-percent higher than last year's P127 billion.

Total *palay* production for the period was 3.68 million metric tons, 1.69 percent higher than last year's production of 3.62 million metric tons.

Corn production reached 1.7 million metric tons, 11.43-percent higher than last year's 1.52 million metric tons.

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Deputy Country Manager
DHL Express

| Program Outline: | Topic Overview: |
|---|---|
| May 11, 2007, Friday | |
| Procurement Outsourcing and Strategies | Learn the strategies to determine the right outsourcing approach: analyze the opportunities and challenges of outsourcing specific functions in the supply chain. |
| "e-Procurement" | Provides information on the different types of eProcurement such as electronic reverse auctions, electronic sourcing, electronic catalog buying and the like. |
| Inventing Value in Warehousing and Logistics | Learn how to carefully embraces useful technologies and capitalize on them to invent value through greater heights in quality, productivity and profitability. |
| Effective Transportation Management | Provide knowledge on the importance of effective logistic planning and implementation, increasing your competitiveness, eliminating costly delays and inefficiencies by enhancing freight and customs management. |
| Effective Distribution Management | Learn the effective basic distribution management, its roles and importance in the logistics businesses. |
| Enhancing Fleet Productivity and Flexibility Through GPS | Learn the 3rd eye GPS vehicle monitoring systems and use it for more flexible and real time experience. |
| May 12, 2007 Saturday | |
| Trends in 3rd Party Logistics (3PL) | Provides an overview of the 3rd party logistics marketplace wherein you will learn how to assess the pros, cons, correct application and the criteria in choosing the best 3rd party logistics partner. |
| Warehouse Re-Lay-outing | Learn the importance and significant effects of re-lay-outing on the company efficiency in its operations. |
| Ethics and Good Governance: The Sarbanes Oxley Act | Overview of the Sarbanes-Oxley. Act and how the policies will facilitate our business dealings |
| RFID Technology | Learn how RFID work in core warehouse functions such as receiving, picking, storing & shipping to increase performance of your supply chain |
| The Challenges of Global Warehousing | Provide short overview of the role of warehousing in effective logistics management and emphasize its importance in gaining competitive advantage in today's global business arena. |
| "The Certainty of Uncertainty Managing Complex Risk in the Supply Chain" | Provide fundamental knowledge of Risk Management to meet company's objectives & customer expectations within allocated cost, time, resource, & performance constraints. |

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## Convergys expanding in Cebu

CONVERGYS CORP. IS EXPANDING OPERATIONS in the Philippines with a second integrated contact center in Cebu, this time in Asiatown IT Park in Lahug.

The new contact center, which will have up to 700 new employees, will serve global clients. This is in addition to about 1,200 employees in the existing Convergys center in Arcenas Estate, Banawa.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is expected to lead the dedication of Convergys' eighth Philippine contact center, located in i2 Building along Jose Maria del Mar Avenue, Asiatown IT Park. Cebu officials led by Governor Gwendolyn Garcia and Mayor Tomas Osmeña are also expected to attend.

Clint Streit, Convergys executive vice president for customer care, and Marife Zamora, vice president and country manager, will be hosting the dignitaries.

The awards and recognition received by Convergys for its excellent employee relations and development program stem from its career path support programs.

The said programs helped Convergys achieve the highest employee commitment and satisfaction rating across all sites in the region.

The company currently employs approximately 10,500 Filipinos and is in the process of hiring additional employees.

# Auto parts makers move against used car imports

THE LOCAL AUTOMOTIVE PARTS MANUFACTURING industry has called for the tightening of controls on the importation of used vehicles.

In a statement, the Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturers Association of the Philippines said the ban on used vehicle importation was not being strictly implemented and this had been hurting industry sales.

MVPMAP said that in Subic Bay Freeport, where used vehicle importation was allowed, stricter controls had to be put in place, especially in in the implementation of the exhaust emission standards, vehicle safety standards and the exit clearance requirements.

The group said it was asking the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Land Transportation Office to make vehicle owners comply with Euro 1 exhaust emission standards as a prerequisite for both registration and renewal of registration of vehicles.

"This early, steps should already be undertaken to be able to impose strictly the more stringent Euro 2 exhaust emission standards by January 2008," it said.

Adopted internationally in the 1990s, the first two vehicle standards set limits on the contents of gasoline and diesel that were harmful to the environment.

MVPMAP also asked the LTO and the trade department's Bureau of Product Standards to strictly implement the vehicle safety standards since most of the imported used vehicles were subsequently converted from right-hand to left-hand drive.

"Numerous vehicular accidents have been attributed to the poor worksmanship and quality of this conversion," the group said. "Most failures have to do with detached welding work in the steering and front suspension systems, thus rendering said vehicles unsafe in the long run."

MVPMAP echoes what domestic automotive assemblers have harked on in the past few years until they achieved legal victory last year when the Supreme Court had ruled with finality against importation of used vehicles. MVPMAP had taken the cause as it tried to coax the government to support a revitalized program for the development of a "national car."

The proposed Philippine Utility Vehicle is AUV-based. "Being brand new, the PhUV would be compliant to Euro 1 exhaust emission standards and proper taxes will be paid," MVPMAP said.

*Ronnel W. Domingo*

# Kuwaiti firm to invest in downstream oil sector

**By Abigail L. Ho**

A KUWAITI COMPANY IS EXPECTED TO INvest in the country's downstream oil sector, which includes the distribution of petroleum products.

Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla declined, however, to name the Kuwaiti firm, but said the firm would soon announce its joint-venture investments in the country.

A Kuwaiti company, Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co. (Kufpec) is already present in the Philippines, but in the upstream sector.

Through a farm-in agreement with Service Contract 46 operator Japan Petroleum Exploration Co. Ltd. (Japex), Kufpec has a 35-percent stake in the service contract covering an area near the Tañon Strait in Central Visayas.

The Department of Energy awarded SC 46 to Japex in February 2005.

The firm committed to invest around $12.7 million in its seven-year exploration program.

It had already conducted initial surveys over the exploration block.

If oil and gas reserves in the area are proven to be of commercial value after the seven-year exploration period, Japex and Kufpec will be given another 25 years to bring the area into commercial production.

Lotilla said drilling in the area should start in the fourth quarter, as Japex had already secured a rig for the drilling activity.

Kufpec also has a participating interest in SC 60, together with Shell Philippines Exploration BV and South China Resources Inc.

The companies have committed to invest at least $24 million over seven years in the area.

SC 60, which covers a relatively unexplored area, was formerly Geophysical Survey and Exploration Contract 99 or GSEC-99.

According to the DOE, it is one of the promising sites for petroleum exploration as identified by the Philippine Petroleum Resource Assessment Project Study jointly conducted by the DOE and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation.

Under the contract, the consortium will conduct seismic and exploration work in the area over a seven-year period, with an option to drill within the contract period.

In the event of a commercial discovery of petroleum, the contract also includes a 25-year production term.

# LBP loans up 14% to ₱3.6B as of March

**By Amy R. Remo**

THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES HAS released P3.6 billion worth of loans during the first quarter of the year, up 14 percent from P3.2 billion last year.

The loans benefited more than 93,000 small farmers and fisherfolk nationwide.

"Part of LBP's priority agenda this year is to further intensify our support to the farmers and fisherfolk, which are our among our priority sectors," said Land Bank president and CEO Gilda E. Pico in a statement.

"It also complements the government's thrust of boosting agricultural productivity and helping increase the income of Filipino farmers who comprise a large portion of the country's poor," she added.

Of the P3.6 billion in loans, P3.4 billion were released to small farmers while the remaining P171 million went to the fisherfolk.

These loans were channeled through 527 small farmers and fisherfolk cooperatives, 250 countryside financial institutions and Quedan & Rural Credit Guarantee Corp.

The credit assistance helped support various activities ranging from crop production, livestock, fishery activities to marketing and manufacturing.

Pico said that for this year, Land Bank plans to release P17.5 billion in loans to the farmer and fisherfolk sectors by using its extensive countryside network as well as its partnership with its credit conduits.

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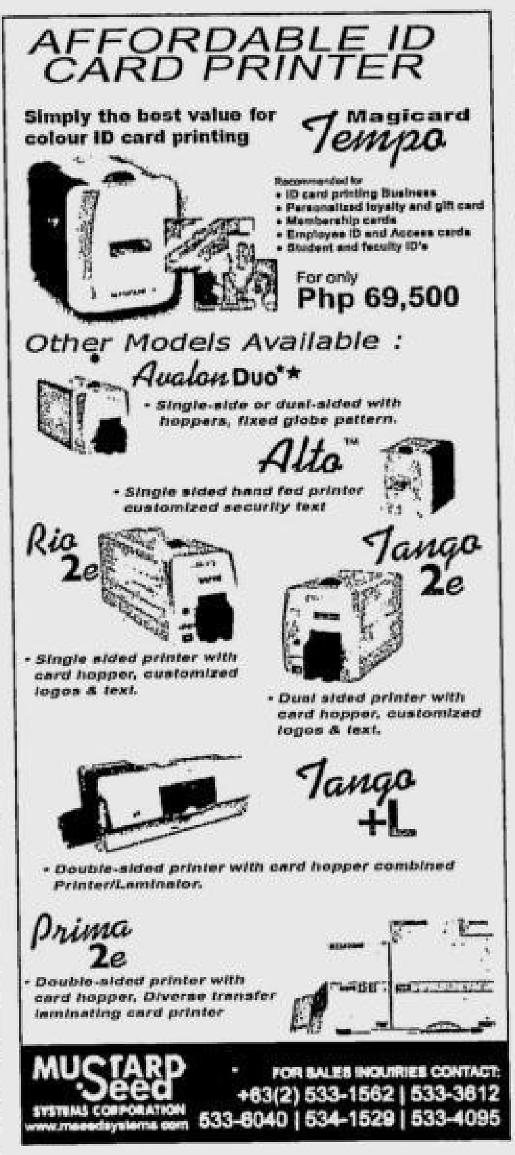
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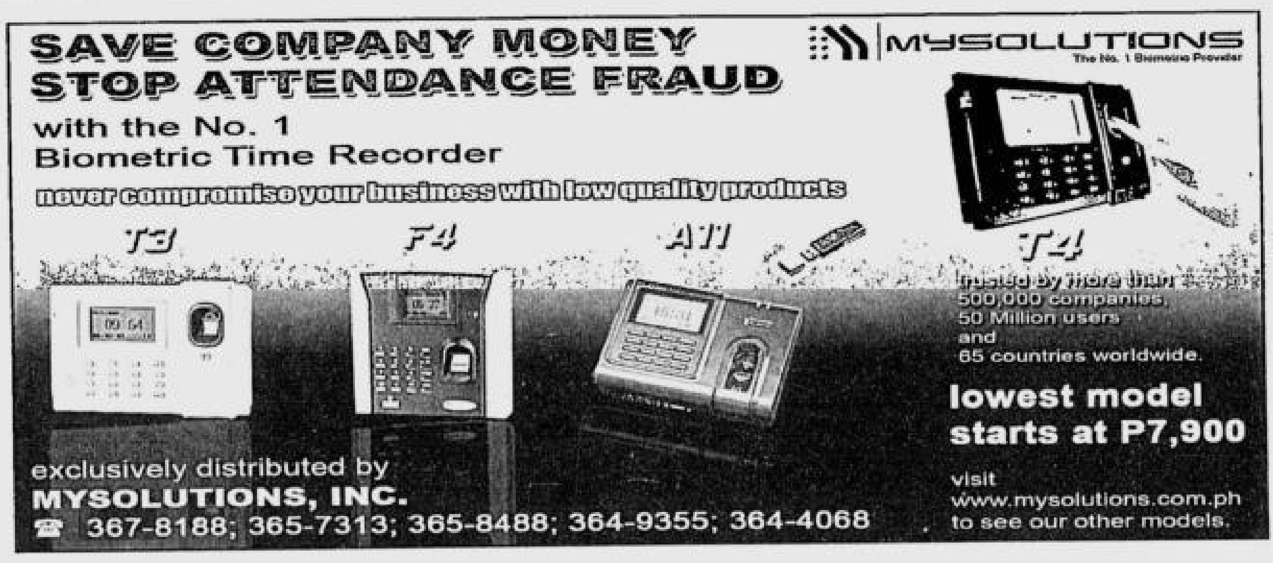
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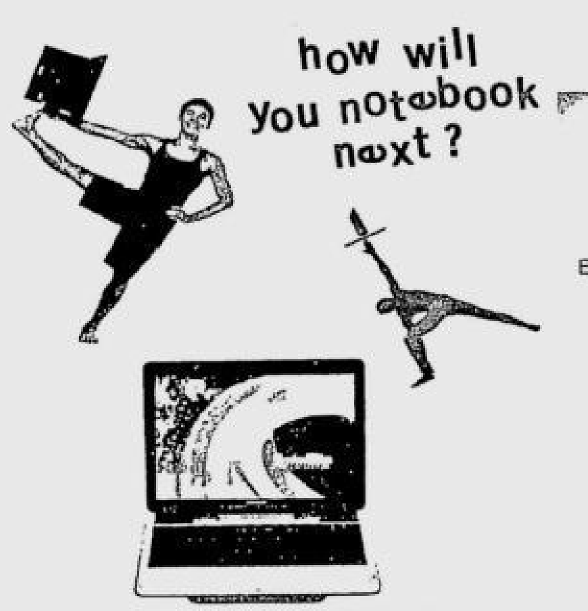
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# Coal producer Semirara to venture into mining, power

**By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson**

COAL PRODUCER SEMIRARA MINING Corp. plans to foray into new businesses like power and nickel or copper-gold mining that will provide it a steady revenue stream once its supply contract with a state-owned power plant in Batangas, its single biggest customer, expires by 2010, officials said.

Following the company's stockholders' meeting yesterday, Semirara vice chair and chief executive officer Isidro A. Consunji said the fate of its supply contract with National Power Corp.'s Calaca power plant in Batangas hangs in the balance when the latter is privatized before 2010. Still, whether Calaca is privatized before that year, Semirara's supply contract will end in May 2010.

"If we depend on traditional markets, we won't be able to control our growth," Consunji said. "We don't know if the new owners will renew the supply contract (with Semirara) so now we have to get ready in the eventuality that we won't be able to control the market after 2010."

To give it muscle for its planned ventures, Semirara obtained shareholder approval to amend its corporate by-laws to allow it to engage in the business of mining other minerals, and power generation, among other activities.

Semirara has a long-term supply contract with Napocor for the power plants in Calaca. The potential requirement of the Calaca plants is about 1.5 million to 2 million metric tons, Semirara said in its annual report.

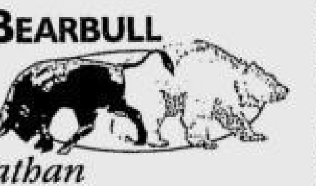
Historically, 98 percent of Semirara's revenues come from the NPC Calaca plants.

Napocor's consumption of Semirara coal has steadily increased since the company worked on improving the quality of its product. As of 2006, Napocor's share in the volume of Semirara's sales grew to 63 percent from 58 percent in 2005. Likewise, Napocor's share in terms of value of Semirara's sales increased to 68 percent in 2006 from 65 percent in 2006, the company's financial report showed.

Consunji said that Semirara was in talks with potential partners in mining and power as a potential co-investor in these industries, but declined to disclose their identities. He added that Semirara could invest with parent firm DMCI Holdings Inc. in off-grid small island power plants.

# There's no fuel like an old fuel

**MR. BEARBULL**



*Ron Nathan*

AFTER 11 PEOPLE WERE KILLED IN one day, there is no way that I am going out on Election Day even with my body armor, 8 guards and an armored tank. It is simply too dangerous. However, I will be encouraging my wife to go out canvassing. Last time, she was a flying voter (I lent her my helicopter) and she returned with indelible risk in the most unimaginable places. She refused to talk about it. This year, she has a Flying V sweater. She assures me that it does not stand for flying voter and that I am still her Pet Ron. Oil walk beside her to see what she is up to but diesel have to do for now. I think she is looking for someone with cleaner emissions. I think it was Abe (not the Japanese Prime Minister) who said, "You can fuel all the people some of the time and some of the people all the time but you can't fuel all the people all the time." He was later assassinated in a booth.

One day, a man came home and was greeted by his wife wearing a very sexy nightie. "Tie me up," she said, "and you can do anything you want." So he tied her up and went golfing.

A woman was shopping at her local supermarket and bought: 2 liters of low fat milk, a carton of eggs, a liter of orange juice, a head of lettuce, half a dozen tomatoes, a cucumber, mayonnaise and a 500 mg jar of coffee. As she was unloading her items on to the conveyor belt, a drunk standing behind her said, "You must be single." The woman was startled by this statement but intrigued as well. "You are absolutely correct but how on earth did you know that?" The drunk replied, "Because you're so damn ugly."

* * *

The DOW had its longest Bull Run since 1927, rising 24 out of the last 27 sessions. If it keeps up this pace, it will overtake the NIKKEI in 10 months and the HANG SENG in 20 months but it will still take at least 10 years to catch up with the Brazilian BOVESPA, which stands at over 50,000.

If you want to get really high returns on your money, why not buy ZIMBABWE bonds. The only downside is that the rate of inflation in March was 2200 percent and is expected to rise to 4000 percent before it can be brought under control. A man carried a wheelbarrow of Zimbabwe dollars to pay for his groceries in the supermarket. He left it outside as it was so large and when he returned, somebody had left the money and stolen the wheelbarrow (Taken from the Zimbabwe Gazette). I read everything.

The reason for the US bull market is that all the analysts were convinced that earnings growth would be much lower so they downgraded growth from double digits to 5 percent or less. Most results have been released and the rest will report next week. Earnings growth did fall to single digits but not as low as anticipated. In fact, 70 percent exceeded expectations so the market kept on rising. It is simply a reaction to over-pessimism.

The number of jobs created in April halved from a revised 177,000 in March to 88,000. This caused unemployment to increase marginally from 4.4 percent to 4.5 percent and confirmed that the economy is indeed slowing. Hourly earnings increased by 0.2 percent, down from 0.3 percent the previous month, and more in line with BERNANKE's inflation target. The FED now has no reason to increase rates so the stock market is happy. Eventually, the FED will start reducing rates, which will stimulate the stock market but probably weaken the already weak dollar.

Analysts will probably upgrade next quarter's company results and then be disappointed if they don't materialize. So we might be in for a disappointing summer, starting in July. In the meantime, the DOW will have little to sustain it, having lost its stimulus, and will probably drift sideways to lower after the end of this week.

The PHISIX has not responded to the DOW as would be expected but this is due to election violence. After last Friday, we look like becoming the next Iraq, at least for the next week. Disappointment with excessive government spending and a shortfall by the BIR also contributed to the market's lethargy but Finance Secretary TEVES has reassured investors that he has the situation under control and the market and the peso responded vigorously.

China has started putting its house in order by instructing the banks to set aside 11 percent of their deposits as reserves. This has the effect of taking a lot of money out of circulation and slowing down the money supply. Our central bank has the same problem but will adopt different measures. They will probably abolish or modify the tiering system, which effectively increases interest rates. I doubt if you will ever see the 91-day treasury bills below 3 percent again. Because of this, there has been foreign selling of property companies.

AC and ALI both announced 20-percent stock dividends but this had little effect on the share prices. PCOR had disappointing results with 1st quarter profits declining from P1 billion to P953 million. Sales declined 17 percent due to weakening domestic demand and declining exports.

Next week, there will be a 3-day conference in Singapore, which most of the world's top companies will attend. Former FED Chair Alan Greenspan will be speaking by satellite so the audience will be set alight. A number of smaller companies will be telling their success stories and among them are 3 Filipino companies, Chemrez Industries (COAT), SECB and GEO. Foreign companies are becoming increasingly interested in the Philippines' resources.

INDOPHIL RESOURCES, an Australian mining company that owns a stake in a $2-billion copper-gold project in the Philippines, said that it is studying 4 or 5 projects that it might invest in to produce more of the precious metals. The regions they are targeting are relatively under-explored and so hold good potential to emerge as significant projects."

This comment applies to large tracts of the Philippines, which are thought to contain up to $1 trillion worth of untapped mineral wealth. At the beginning of the year, I wrote that 2007/8 will be the years of the mining industry and I stick by that.

If next Tuesday is also declared a holiday, there will be no article next week.

*mrbearbull@hotmail.com*

# Piltel posts lower net income of ₱1.99B

**By Riza T. Olchondra**

PILIPINO TELEPHONE CORP. (Piltel) reported yesterday a net income of P1.99 billion in the first quarter, 12-percent lower than the P2.25 billion recorded in the same period last year.

Piltel president and CEO Napoleon Nazareno said the lower income was due to lower exceptional or nonrecurring gains.

But Piltel's core net income for the first quarter grew 33 percent to P1.98 billion from P1.49 billion in the same period last year.

Nazareno stressed that Piltel's turnaround was complete since it was now debt-free and profitable after years of losses.

Piltel's total service and nonservice revenues in the first three months grew 24 percent to P3.63 billion, up from P2.92 billion last year. Nazareno attributed the bigger revenue to robust sales of the Talk 'N Text brand of cellular services.

Piltel's Talk 'N Text recorded 421,000 additional subscribers in the first three months, bringing total subscriber base to 7.4 million in end-March.

With more subscribers, Piltel's cellular service revenues grew 24 percent to P3.13 billion from P2.52 billion a year ago.

Piltel has also redeemed all of its outstanding unrestructured bonds amounting to $690,000. These bonds were part of the convertible bonds originally issued on July 17, 1996 by Piltel International Holdings Corp., a wholly owned subsidiary of Piltel, and guaranteed by Piltel at a face value of $183 million.

Piltel's stockholders' equity stood at a positive P16.55 billion as of March 31.

Nazareno said these positive developments has put the company in a position to pay dividends to its shareholders. Dividends will be paid to common shareholders once the company has paid its cumulative dividends to preferred shareholders, which totaled P2.64 billion as of end March this year.

"Once that is completed and our retained earnings have reached an appropriate level, we should be able to pay cash dividends out of our 2007 income to our common shareholders sometime in early 2008," he said.

Piltel is the third-biggest telco in the country and a unit of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

# GSIS in talks ...

From page B1

eign-currency denominated instruments.

The GSIS also announced yesterday two housing programs, which it said could help dispose of the real estate it owns or has foreclosed because of unpaid housing loans by members.

Garcia said the GSIS expected to dispose within two to three years all its P10 billion worth of real property assets through the two housing program, namely the SAIS (Sais Ang Interest sa Lahat) and the GMA Helps (Garantisadong Mababang Amortization na House en Lot Para Sa 'Yo).

SAIS is a new housing loan rate reduction and restructuring program which the GSIS offers to all its existing home loan borrowers. The interest rate charged on the borrowers will be automatically reduced to 6 percent from the previous 12 percent.

The "GMA Helps" scheme, which will also be available to non-GSIS members, will offer a 6-percent annual interest on those who want to buy any of the pension fund manager's owned and foreclosed property.

The housing loan is payable up to a maximum of 30 years and will require a 5-percent downpayment, the GSIS said.

"No other financial institution, private or otherwise, has reduced interest rates to 6 percent on all housing loan accounts. We hope others would follow suit so that in the end, our move to lower our rates would benefit the entire public," he said.

The two housing programs are in response to President Macapagal-Arroyo's Labor Day directive to lower interest rates for the government's housing programs.

## PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 7, 2007)

| 52-WEEK HIGH | 52-WEEK LOW | STOCKS | OPEN | HIGH | LOW | CLOSE | VOLUME |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **BANKS** | | | | | |
| 17.5 | 5 | Asiatrust Development Bank Inc. | 13 | 13 | 13 | 13 | 200 |
| 73 | 42.5 | Bank of the Philippine Islands | 64.5 | 68.5 | 64.5 | 68.5 | 2,358,700 |
| 65.5 | 30.5 | Banco de Oro Universal Bank | 58.5 | 59 | 58.5 | 59 | 724,100 |
| 935 | 630 | China Banking Corp. | 920 | 920 | 910 | 910 | 610 |
| 20 | 18.18 | Citystate Savings Bank | 19.75 | 19.75 | 19.75 | 19.75 | 300 |
| 119 | 60 | Equitable PCI Bank Inc. | 101 | 104 | 101 | 103 | 147,360 |
| 0.63 | 0.36 | Export and Industry Bank Inc. | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 1,100,000 |
| 68.5 | 29 | Metropolitan Bank and Trust Company | 60.5 | 62 | 60 | 60.5 | 5,956,800 |
| 55 | 30.5 | Philippine National Bank | 46.5 | 46.5 | 46 | 46 | 86,500 |
| 68 | 38.5 | Philippine Savings Bank | 62 | 63 | 62 | 63 | 3,000 |
| 39.57 | 13.04 | Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 27.5 | 2,576,700 |
| 90 | 41 | Security Bank Corp. | 86.5 | 88.5 | 86.5 | 87.5 | 349,600 |
| | | **OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** | | | | | |
| 3.81 | 1.72 | ATR KimEng Financial Corp. | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 65,000 |
| 7.7 | 1.5 | CitisecOnline.com Inc. | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 316,000 |
| 6.5 | 3.5 | Filipino Fund Inc. | 6.1 | 6.5 | 6.1 | 6.5 | 5,000 |
| 39 | 27 | First Metro Investment Corp. | 37.5 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 37.5 | 10,000 |
| 2,000.00 | 1,500.00 | Manulife Financial Corp. | 1,650.00 | 1,650.00 | 1,640.00 | 1,640.00 | 860 |
| 5 | 4.15 | National Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils. | 4.35 | 4.4 | 4.25 | 4.4 | 16,263,000 |
| 2.22 | 0.97 | PCI Leasing and Finance Inc. | 2.18 | 2.18 | 2.18 | 2.18 | 69,000 |
| 1,005.00 | 200 | The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc | 535 | 565 | 535 | 565 | 18,970 |
| 1.92 | 1.02 | iVantage Corp. | 1.84 | 1.92 | 1.84 | 1.92 | 8,664,000 |
| | | **ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER** | | | | | |
| 0.37 | 0.16 | East Asia Power Resources Corp. | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 300,000 |
| 62.5 | 41 | First Gen Corp. | 59.5 | 59.5 | 59 | 59 | 2,008,400 |
| 82.5 | 40.5 | First Phil. Holdings Corp. | 78.5 | 79 | 78 | 78 | 643,100 |
| 12.75 | 6.6 | Manila Water Company Inc. | 12.25 | 12.5 | 12 | 12 | 3,172,900 |
| 81 | 13 | Manila Electric Company A | 77.5 | 79.5 | 77.5 | 79.5 | 615,500 |
| 82 | 20.25 | Manila Electric Company B | 78 | 80 | 78 | 79.5 | 3,252,000 |
| 6.8 | 4.1 | PNOC Energy Development Corp. | 5.9 | 6 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 50,034,000 |
| 5.7 | 3.35 | Petron Corp. | 5.1 | 5.4 | 5.1 | 5.3 | 4,160,000 |
| 2.2 | 1.6 | Salcon Power Corp. | 2 | 2.1 | 2 | 2.1 | 120,000 |
| 1.62 | 0.89 | Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Dev't Corp. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.38 | 1.38 | 92,000 |
| | | **FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO** | | | | | |
| 5 | 2.85 | Alaska Milk Corp. | 4.5 | 4.8 | 4.5 | 4.8 | 84,000 |
| 2.95 | 1.88 | Alliance Tuna International Inc. | 2.16 | 2.16 | 2.12 | 2.12 | 283,000 |
| 3.4 | 1.24 | CADP Group Corp. | 1.84 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 1.84 | 4,000 |
| 28.5 | 19.5 | Ginebra San Miguel Inc. | 26 | 26 | 26 | 26 | 2,500 |
| 61 | 30 | Jollibee Foods Corp. | 54 | 55 | 53.5 | 55 | 355,000 |
| 6.7 | 3.5 | Pancake House Inc. | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 5,000 |
| 1.62 | 0.69 | RFM Corp. | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 646,000 |
| 4.05 | 2.34 | Roxas Holdings | 2.42 | 2.44 | 2.42 | 2.44 | 203,000 |
| 67.5 | 61 | San Miguel Corp. A | 64.5 | 64.5 | 64 | 64.5 | 46,600 |
| 84 | 68 | San Miguel Corp. B | 73 | 73.5 | 72 | 73.5 | 404,300 |
| 0.51 | 0.19 | Swift Foods Inc. | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 650,000 |
| 4.3 | 2 | Tanduay Holdings Inc. | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 8,000 |
| 24 | 15.75 | Universal Robina Corp. | 15.75 | 16 | 15.75 | 16 | 5,094,600 |
| | | **CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 5.17 | 1.07 | EEI Corp. | 4.85 | 4.85 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 60,000 |
| 4.5 | 1.06 | Fortune Cement Corp. | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 200,000 |
| 9.1 | 4.2 | Holcim Philippines Inc. | 8.9 | 9 | 8.9 | 9 | 1,803,000 |
| 2 | 0.245 | Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc. | 1.74 | 1.8 | 1.74 | 1.78 | 3,412,000 |
| | | **CHEMICALS** | | | | | |
| 6 | 1.42 | Chemrez Technologies Inc. | 5.9 | 6 | 5.8 | 6 | 10,093,000 |
| | | **DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS** | | | | | |
| 0.43 | 0.06 | Picop Resources Inc. | 0.28 | 0.28 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 9,630,000 |
| | | **HOLDING FIRMS** | | | | | |
| 4.05 | 1.7 | A. Soriano Corp. | 3.75 | 3.75 | 3.75 | 3.75 | 266,000 |
| 0.0925 | 0.022 | AJO.net Holdings Inc. | 0.07 | 0.0725 | 0.07 | 0.07 | 12,200,000 |
| 0.59 | 0.17 | APC Group Inc. | 0.55 | 0.55 | 0.54 | 0.54 | 4,830,000 |
| 0.018 | 0.006 | Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. A | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 75,600,000 |
| 0.019 | 0.0065 | Abacus Cons. Res. and Hold'gs Inc. B | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 6,000,000 |
| 9.7 | 4.85 | Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 8.9 | 81,000 |
| 0.016 | 0.0065 | Alcorn Gold Resources Corp. | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 0.013 | 21,500,000 |
| 7.3 | 3.5 | Alliance Global Group Inc. | 6.5 | 7.2 | 6.5 | 6.7 | 11,664,000 |
| 1.04 | 0.45 | Alsons Consolidated Resources Inc. | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 0.77 | 80,000 |
| 2.24 | 0.83 | Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp. | 2.18 | 2.18 | 2.12 | 2.12 | 5,980,000 |
| 680 | 327.5 | Ayala Corp. | 595 | 595 | 590 | 590 | 588,210 |
| 14 | 7.92 | Bacnotan Consolidated Industries Inc. | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.75 | 13.75 | 4,500 |
| 6.9 | 0.7 | Balabac Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. | 4.6 | 4.75 | 4.5 | 4.75 | 522,000 |
| 4.45 | 0.97 | Benpres Holdings Corp. | 3.75 | 3.9 | 3.75 | 3.9 | 17,883,000 |
| 7.8 | 3.25 | DMCI Holdings Inc. | 7.5 | 7.7 | 7.4 | 7.7 | 9,076,000 |
| 6 | 2.55 | Filinvest Development Corp. | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.1 | 454,000 |
| 3.55 | 1.14 | House of Investments Inc. | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 95,000 |
| 14.5 | 5.3 | JG Summit Holdings Inc. | 12.5 | 12.5 | 12.25 | 12.5 | 2,063,800 |
| 2.65 | 1 | Keppel Philippines Holdings Inc. B | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 71,000 |
| 0.88 | 0.1 | Mabuhay Holdings Corp. | 0.52 | 0.53 | 0.52 | 0.53 | 110,000 |
| 12.5 | 0.88 | Magnum Holdings Inc. | 11 | 11.75 | 11 | 11.75 | 1,314,600 |
| 3.7 | 0.19 | Multitech Investments Corp. | 3.25 | 3.7 | 3.25 | 3.65 | 8,654,000 |
| 5.4 | 1.06 | PAL Holdings Inc. | 3.75 | 3.8 | 3.75 | 3.75 | 110,000 |
| 0.48 | 0.155 | Prime Orion Philippines Inc. | 0.4 | 0.43 | 0.4 | 0.42 | 5,010,000 |
| 407.5 | 205 | SM Investments Corp. | 362.5 | 365 | 360 | 362.5 | 639,700 |
| 0.51 | 0.115 | Sinophil Corp. | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 0.37 | 2,380,000 |
| 1.34 | 0.68 | South China Resources Inc. | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 100,000 |
| 0.41 | 0.05 | Unioil Resources and Holdings Co. Inc. | 0.29 | 0.29 | 0.28 | 0.28 | 2,470,000 |
| 0.24 | 0.08 | Wellex Industries, Inc. | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 0.165 | 280,000 |
| 0.55 | 0.15 | Zeus Holdings Inc. | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 0.36 | 100,000 |
| | | **PROPERTY** | | | | | |
| 2.16 | 0.75 | A Brown Company Inc. | 1.4 | 1.42 | 1.4 | 1.42 | 1,462,000 |
| 0.58 | 0.3 | Araneta Properties Inc. | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 0.45 | 20,000 |
| 18.5 | 10.25 | Ayala Land Inc. | 17.75 | 18 | 17.5 | 18 | 13,607,300 |
| 1.72 | 0.95 | Belle Corp. | 1.34 | 1.34 | 1.32 | 1.32 | 1,499,000 |
| 3.1 | 1.18 | C and P Homes Inc. | 2.36 | 2.42 | 2.36 | 2.42 | 1,148,000 |
| 4.5 | 1.8 | Cebu Holdings Inc. | 4.3 | 4.45 | 4.3 | 4.45 | 50,000 |
| 4.2 | 1.42 | City and Land Developers Inc. | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4,000 |
| 2.9 | 1 | Cityland Development Corp. | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 10,000 |
| 0.54 | 0.165 | Cyber Bay Corp. | 0.46 | 0.47 | 0.46 | 0.47 | 3,020,000 |
| 0.31 | 0.14 | EIB Realty Developers Inc. | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 0.24 | 100,000 |
| 3.1 | 0.64 | Edsa Properties Holdings Inc. | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2.8 | 3 | 1,264,000 |
| 0.99 | 0.44 | Empire East Land Holdings Inc. | 0.79 | 0.8 | 0.78 | 0.79 | 18,210,000 |
| 0.165 | 0.027 | Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc. | 0.14 | 0.145 | 0.135 | 0.145 | 5,170,000 |
| 1.12 | 0.38 | Fil-Estate Land Inc. | 0.77 | 0.79 | 0.77 | 0.79 | 1,180,000 |
| 2.04 | 0.93 | Filinvest Land Inc. | 1.82 | 1.82 | 1.76 | 1.76 | 23,496,000 |
| 0.016 | 0.005 | Interport Resources Corp. B | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 100,000 |
| 0.69 | 0.2 | Kuok Phil. Properties Inc. | 0.46 | 0.46 | 0.45 | 0.46 | 5,780,000 |
| 0.99 | 0.18 | MRC Allied Industries Inc. | 0.78 | 0.78 | 0.73 | 0.74 | 1,300,000 |
| 0.034 | 0.011 | Marsteel Consolidated Inc. A | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 2,000,000 |
| 0.036 | 0.012 | Marsteel Consolidated Inc. B | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 0.024 | 1,500,000 |
| 3.95 | 1.26 | Megaworld Corp. | 3.55 | 3.65 | 3.55 | 3.55 | 149,439,000 |
| 6.4 | 1.5 | Metro Pacific Investments Corp. | 4.55 | 4.55 | 4.55 | 4.55 | 46,000 |
| 0.26 | 0.1 | Phil. Estates Corp. | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 0.18 | 100,000 |
| 0.87 | 0.25 | Philippine Realty and Holdings Corp. | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 0.6 | 350,000 |
| 3.5 | 1.1 | Polar Property Holdings Corp. | 2.32 | 2.32 | 2.32 | 2.32 | 20,000 |
| 23 | 9.6 | Robinson Land Corp. | 17.5 | 17.75 | 17.5 | 17.5 | 893,700 |
| 5.7 | 1.48 | SM Development Corp. | 5.4 | 5.6 | 5.4 | 5.6 | 2,035,000 |
| 13 | 6.9 | SM Prime Holdings Inc. | 11.5 | 11.75 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 7,089,900 |
| 0.96 | 0.51 | Suntrust Home Developers Inc. | 0.66 | 0.69 | 0.66 | 0.69 | 160,000 |
| 0.27 | 0.06 | Uniwide Holdings Inc. | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.195 | 0.195 | 1,710,000 |
| | | **MEDIA** | | | | | |
| 30 | 13.5 | ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. | 29 | 30 | 29 | 30 | 655,500 |
| 1.2 | 0.97 | Manila Bulletin Publishing Corp. | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 1.04 | 106,000 |
| | | **TELECOMMUNICATIONS** | | | | | |
| 2.12 | 1.1 | Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc. | 1.66 | 1.68 | 1.66 | 1.68 | 936,000 |
| 1,445.00 | 820 | Globe Telecom Inc. | 1,220.00 | 1,245.00 | 1,220.00 | 1,245.00 | 92,390 |
| 2,820.00 | 1,700.00 | Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co. | 2,530.00 | 2,565.00 | 2,530.00 | 2,565.00 | 180,560 |
| 7.9 | 3.1 | Pilipino Telephone Corp. | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 1,698,000 |
| | | **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** | | | | | |
| 0.39 | 0.155 | Boulevard Holdings Inc. | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 0.25 | 1,810,000 |
| 7.5 | 2 | Diversified Financial Network, Inc. | 6.5 | 7.5 | 6.5 | 7.3 | 479,000 |
| 7.6 | 2 | IPVG Corp. | 7.5 | 7.6 | 7.1 | 7.3 | 3,838,000 |
| 0.075 | 0.046 | ISM Communications Corp. | 0.0625 | 0.065 | 0.0625 | 0.065 | 800,000 |
| 0.033 | 0.011 | Imperial Resources Inc. A | 0.026 | 0.028 | 0.026 | 0.026 | 15,300,000 |
| 2.9 | 1.38 | Ionics Inc. | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 50,000 |
| 0.0675 | 0.036 | Island Information and Technology Inc. | 0.0575 | 0.0575 | 0.0575 | 0.0575 | 3,000,000 |
| 1.84 | 1.1 | Music Semiconductors Corp. | 1.42 | 1.42 | 1.4 | 1.4 | 170,000 |
| 0.06 | 0.025 | PhilWeb.Com Inc. | 0.046 | 0.046 | 0.045 | 0.046 | 82,400,000 |
| 5.8 | 1 | Transpacific Broadband Group Int'l. Inc. | 2.24 | 2.28 | 2.1 | 2.16 | 1,078,000 |
| | | **TRANSPORTATION SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 1.88 | 1.14 | Aboitiz Transport System Corp. | 1.52 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 1.52 | 200,000 |
| 6.8 | 2.5 | Asian Terminals Inc. | 6.2 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 6.3 | 199,000 |
| 32 | 12.5 | Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc. | 27.5 | 27.5 | 26.5 | 27.5 | 2,402,200 |
| 2.12 | 0.86 | Keppel Philippines Marine Inc. | 2.06 | 2.12 | 2.06 | 2.1 | 1,558,000 |
| 1.74 | 0.8 | Lorenzo Shipping Corp. | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1.16 | 1,000 |
| | | **HOTEL & LEISURE** | | | | | |
| 4.25 | 1.26 | Leisure and Resorts World Corp. | 4.05 | 4.05 | 3.95 | 4 | 576,000 |
| 4.2 | 2.8 | Philippine Racing Club Inc. | 3 | 3.05 | 3 | 3.05 | 9,570,000 |
| 0.45 | 0.18 | Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc. | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 0.38 | 200,000 |
| 1.2 | 0.42 | Waterfront Philippines Inc. | 0.96 | 1.02 | 0.96 | 0.99 | 19,120,000 |
| | | **EDUCATION** | | | | | |
| 3.7 | 2.65 | iPeople Inc. | 3.15 | 3.25 | 3.15 | 3.15 | 65,000 |
| | | **DIVERSIFIED SERVICES** | | | | | |
| 22 | 6.6 | JTH Davies Holdings Inc. | 7 | 7 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 26,000 |
| 4.35 | 1.84 | Macroasia Corp. | 4 | 4.05 | 3.9 | 3.95 | 279,000 |
| 16 | 13 | Pacific Online Systems Corp. | 14 | 14 | 13.75 | 14 | 316,900 |
| 30 | 9.5 | Paxys Inc. | 27 | 27.5 | 27 | 27.5 | 6,850,900 |
| | | **MINING** | | | | | |
| 0.018 | 0.007 | Abra Mining and Industrial Corp. | 0.012 | 0.013 | 0.012 | 0.012 | 186,700,000 |
| 7.6 | 2.6 | Apex Mining Company Inc. A | 5.7 | 6 | 5.7 | 6 | 766,000 |
| 7.7 | 2.55 | Apex Mining Company Inc. B | 5.9 | 6.4 | 5.9 | 6.4 | 479,000 |
| 18.5 | 5.6 | Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp. | 17.75 | 17.75 | 17.5 | 17.75 | 1,100,100 |
| 14.75 | 8.7 | Benguet Corp. A | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 53,000 |
| 2.04 | 0.0602 | Geograce Resources Philippines Inc. | 1.96 | 2.04 | 1.94 | 2 | 44,030,000 |
| 0.42 | 0.215 | Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A | 0.31 | 0.32 | 0.31 | 0.31 | 1,270,000 |
| 0.47 | 0.225 | Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B | 0.34 | 0.35 | 0.34 | 0.35 | 1,320,000 |
| 0.037 | 0.0154 | Manila Mining Corp. A | 0.035 | 0.035 | 0.034 | 0.034 | 201,600,000 |
| 0.039 | 0.017 | Manila Mining Corp. B | 0.037 | 0.037 | 0.036 | 0.036 | 218,500,000 |
| 0.024 | 0.0075 | Omico Corporation | 0.019 | 0.02 | 0.018 | 0.019 | 1,379,400,000 |
| 5.9 | 2.65 | Philex Mining Corp. | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 4,373,000 |
| 32 | 14.75 | Semirara Mining Corp. | 27 | 27 | 27 | 27 | 179,600 |
| 0.87 | 0.25 | United Paragon Mining Corp. | 0.79 | 0.79 | 0.75 | 0.75 | 260,000 |
| 1.8 | 0.41 | Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp. | 1.38 | 1.44 | 1.38 | 1.4 | 16,496,000 |
| | | **OIL** | | | | | |
| 0.58 | 0.23 | Basic Consolidated Inc. | 0.41 | 0.41 | 0.39 | 0.39 | 3,690,000 |
| 0.017 | 0.008 | Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 0.016 | 101,100,000 |
| 0.019 | 0.009 | Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B | 0.017 | 0.018 | 0.017 | 0.018 | 3,100,000 |
| 14.81 | 8.27 | Petroenergy Resources Corp. | 10.25 | 10.25 | 10 | 10 | 56,000 |
| 0.0182 | 0.0089 | The Philodrill Corp. | 0.015 | 0.016 | 0.015 | 0.016 | 228,500,000 |

BY INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK

## CURRENCIES

| May 7, 2007<br>Country | Unit | Euro Equivalent | Dollar Equivalent | Peso Equivalent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| United States | Dollar | 0.735402 | 1.000000 | 47.5230 |
| Japan | Yen | 0.006121 | 0.008324 | 0.3956 |
| United Kingdom | Pound | 1.466319 | 1.993900 | 94.7561 |
| Hong Kong | Dollar | 0.094037 | 0.127872 | 6.0769 |
| Switzerland | Franc | 0.607419 | 0.825968 | 39.2525 |
| Canada | Dollar | 0.664260 | 0.903261 | 42.9257 |
| Singapore | Dollar | 0.484774 | 0.659196 | 31.3270 |
| Australia | Dollar | 0.603036 | 0.820008 | 38.9692 |
| Bahrain | Dinar* | 1.950824 | 2.652731 | 126.0657 |
| Saudi Arabia | Rial | 0.196096 | 0.266652 | 12.6721 |
| Brunei | Dollar | 0.483181 | 0.657030 | 31.2240 |
| Indonesia | Rupiah | 0.000082 | 0.000112 | 0.0053 |
| Thailand | Baht | 0.022503 | 0.030600 | 1.4542 |
| UAE | Dirham | 0.200224 | 0.272264 | 12.9388 |
| Euro | Euro | 1.000000 | 1.359800 | 64.6218 |
| Korea | Won | 0.000793 | 0.001079 | 0.0513 |
| China | Yuan** | 0.095340 | 0.129643 | 6.1610 |
| Argentina | Peso | 0.238767 | 0.324675 | 15.4295 |
| Brazil | Real | 0.362446 | 0.492854 | 23.4219 |
| Denmark | Kroner | 0.134212 | 0.182502 | 8.6730 |
| India | Rupee | 0.018123 | 0.024643 | 1.1711 |
| Malaysia | Ringgit | 0.215093 | 0.292483 | 13.8997 |
| Mexico | New Peso | 0.067611 | 0.091937 | 4.3691 |
| New Zealand | Dollar | 0.540221 | 0.734592 | 34.9100 |
| Norway | Kroner | 0.123113 | 0.167409 | 7.9558 |
| Pakistan | Rupee | 0.012133 | 0.016499 | 0.7841 |
| South Africa | Rand | 0.106349 | 0.144613 | 6.8724 |
| Sweden | Kroner | 0.109004 | 0.148223 | 7.0440 |
| Syria | Pound | 0.014167 | 0.019264 | 0.9155 |
| Taiwan | Nt Dollar | 0.022099 | 0.030050 | 1.4281 |
| Venezuela | Bolivar | 0.000343 | 0.000466 | 0.0221 |

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—May 4, 2007

* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.

** Asian time closing rate as of April 27, 2007

# WARNING NOTICE

**ASSA ABLOY AB**, a corporation established under the laws of Sweden, is the registered owner of the trademark **YALE** with Trademark Registration Nos. 4-1996-108013, 4-1997-120697 and 4-2002-003129 for Locks and Door Closers, among others, under Classes 6, 7 and 9, respectively.

Under the Intellectual Property Code of the Philippines (R.A. No. 8293), **ASSA ABLOY AB** has the exclusive right to prevent all third parties, not having its consent, from using the trademark **YALE** on goods which are identical or similar to those in respect of which the trademark **YALE** is registered where such use would result in a likelihood of confusion.

**ASSA ABLOY AB** undertakes active protection of its trademarks and other intellectual properties, and will employ the full force of the law in the prosecution of individuals engaged in the importation, sale and distribution of counterfeit **YALE** products in the Philippines. Importers, wholesalers and retailers may be made civilly and criminally liable for dealing in counterfeit **YALE** products.

**ASSA ABLOY AB** hereby firmly warns all individuals and entities engaged in or planning to engage in the importation, sale and distribution of counterfeit **YALE** products to cease and desist from engaging in such illegal activities.

For inquiries and information, please contact:

**ANGARA ABELLO CONCEPCION REGALA & CRUZ**
ACCRA Building 122 Gamboa St.
Legaspi Village, 0770 Makati City
Phone: 830-8000
Fax: 816-0119; 812-4897
E-mail: **accra@acralaw.com**

(PDI - May 8, 2007)

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UNDP

The project, "Philippines : Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy Development (CBRED)", funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) is in search of a National Consultant to conduct the Project Mid-term Evaluation.

The project aims to help reduce in the long-term the annual growth rate of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from activities using fossil fuels through the removal of the major barriers to the development and widespread utilization of renewable energy (RE) systems to replace part of the current fossil fuel use in the Philippines.

## National Consultant

***Responsibilities :***

1. Participate actively in the documentation review and data-gathering
2. Contribute to the development of the evaluation plan and methodology
3. Conduct elements of the evaluation as determined by the International Lead Consultant
4. Contribute to the presentation of the evaluation findings and recommendations at the evaluation wrap-up meeting
5. Contribute to the drafting and finalization of the evaluation report

***Qualifications :***

1. Post-graduate in Engineering, Management or Business, or college degree in said areas with at least 10 years of project development and implementation
2. Minimum of 5 years of project management experience in RE and related climate change projects
3. RE and climate change training and technical expertise
4. Knowledge of RE industry and projects
5. Experience in multilateral and bilateral funded project development and implementation
6. Familiarity with Philippine national development policies, programs and projects

**All application letters and comprehensive resumés should reach our office on or before 18 May 2007. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, tel. # 901 0273**

This advertisement shall remain posted in **www.undp.org.ph** until May 18, 2007.

---

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---

**BERTHAPHIL, INC.**

**Notice is given that Demand Draft No. 001372 in the amount of US$7,500 under the name of RIVKIN RADLER LLP was lost since February 19, 2007.**

(PDI - May 4-10, 2007)

---

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---

# ERRATUM

In the advertisement of **Congress of the Philippines** re: **"AN ACT DEFINING HANDLINE FISHING, PROVIDING EFFECTIVE REGULATIONS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"** published in this paper on **May 6, 2007,** the heading should have read **[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9379]** and not as published.

***Our apologies.***

---

# OBITUARIES

*Our Dearly Beloved*

## Atty. Lazaro Santiago Villarosa, Sr.

**Former Public Defender,**
**Former Provincial Assessor of Nueva Ecija,**
**Former Pres. of Nueva Ecija Alumni Association**
**and a Devoted Rotarian**

*peacefully joined the Lord and his wife Diana on May 6, 2007 at the age of 89.*

His bereaved children: **Makati RTC Judge Joselito C. Villarosa, Lazaro C. Villarosa, Jr., Albert C. Villarosa;** Daughters-in-law; Siblings: **Lolita, Gloria, Aurora & Isabel**

Grandchildren; great-grandchildren and close relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapel, 12-G Araneta Ave., Quezon City until Wednesday May 9, 2007 and will be transferred to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Chapel, Mabini St., Cabanatuan City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 12, 2007 at the Catholic Cemetery, Cabanatuan City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

---

# OBITUARIES

**"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."**
— 2 Corinthians 5:4-5

## MANUEL LOPEZ GUZMAN

*29 November 1928 - 4 May 2007*

Interment will follow the 8:00 A.M. Mass on Wednesday, 9 May 2007, at the Chapel of the Holy Trinity, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina.

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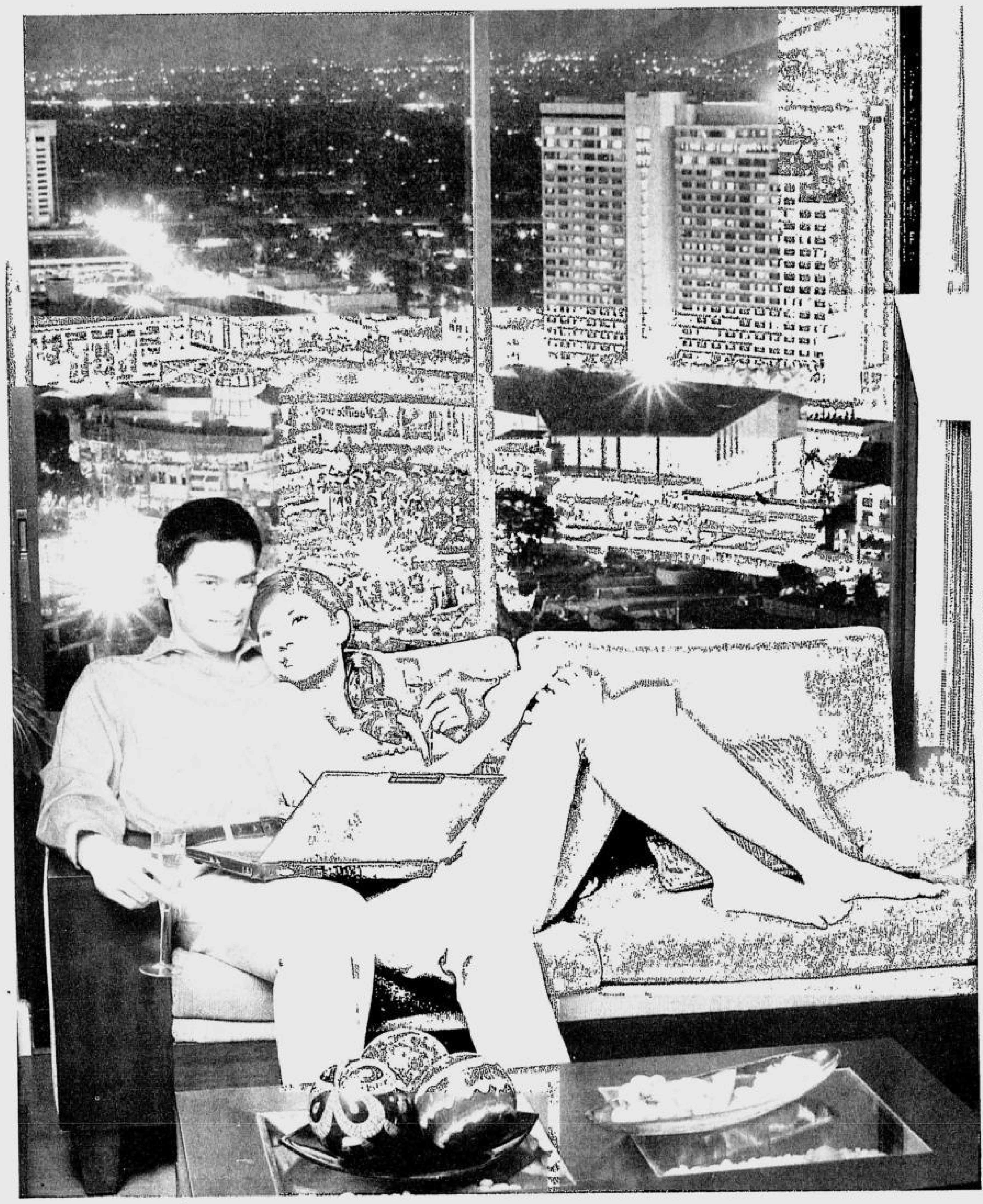
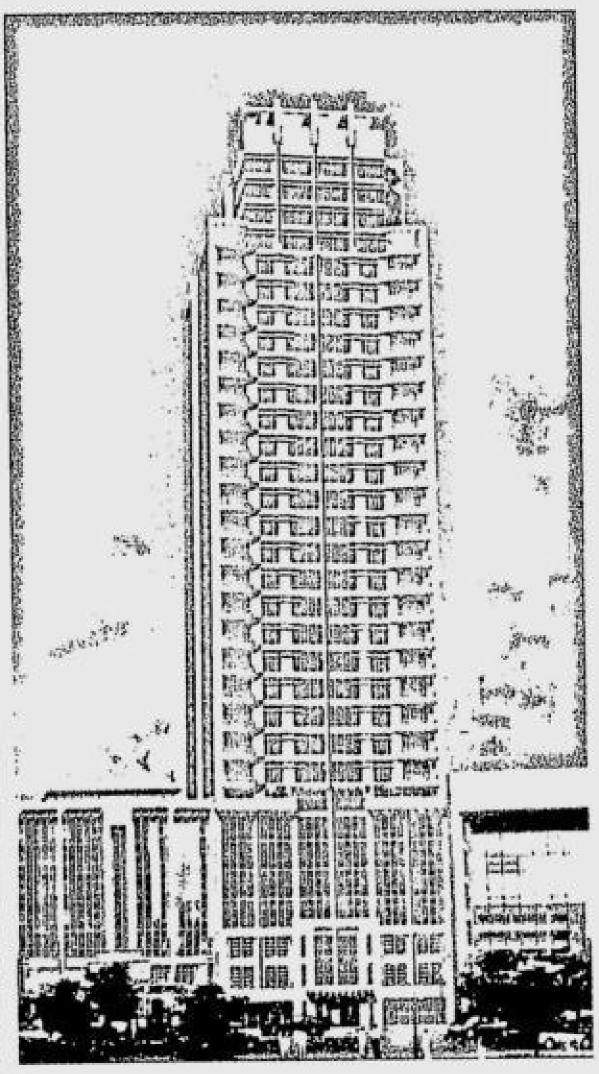
NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
More Classified Ads:
DOLE-NCR ................ A22
AFP Modernization Program ................... A22

# The Art of Living Extraordinarily Well





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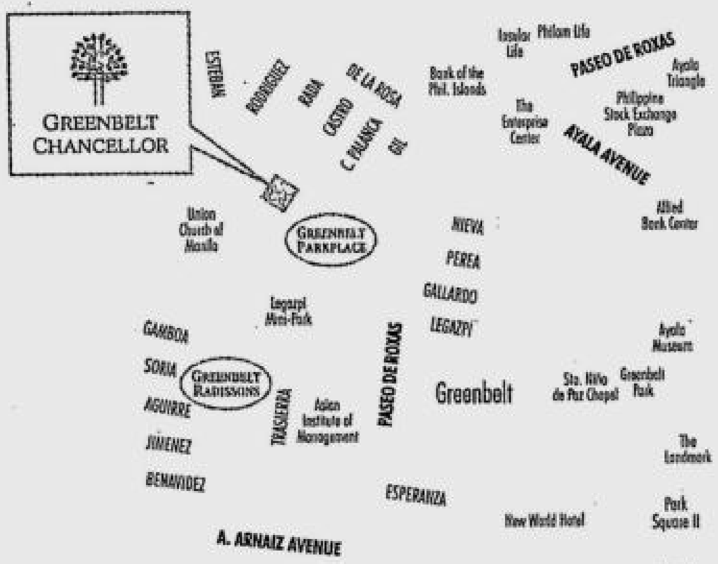
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Philam Life
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Ayala Triangle
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Philippine Stock Exchange Plaza
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Allied Bank Center
Union Church of Manila
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NIEVA
PEREA
GALLARDO
LEGAZPI
Legaspi Mini-Park
GAMBOA
SORIA
GREENBELT RADISSONS
AGUIRRE
JIMENEZ
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Salcedo Village, Makati City,

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at **Greenbelt Parkplace**, The Club Flr.
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IN THIS ISSUE
- Pampering Mom /C4
- The mother in us /C6

A GURU'S glow, and it must come from Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's belief that the divine is within each person.

### SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR

# What the mind conceives, the body achieves

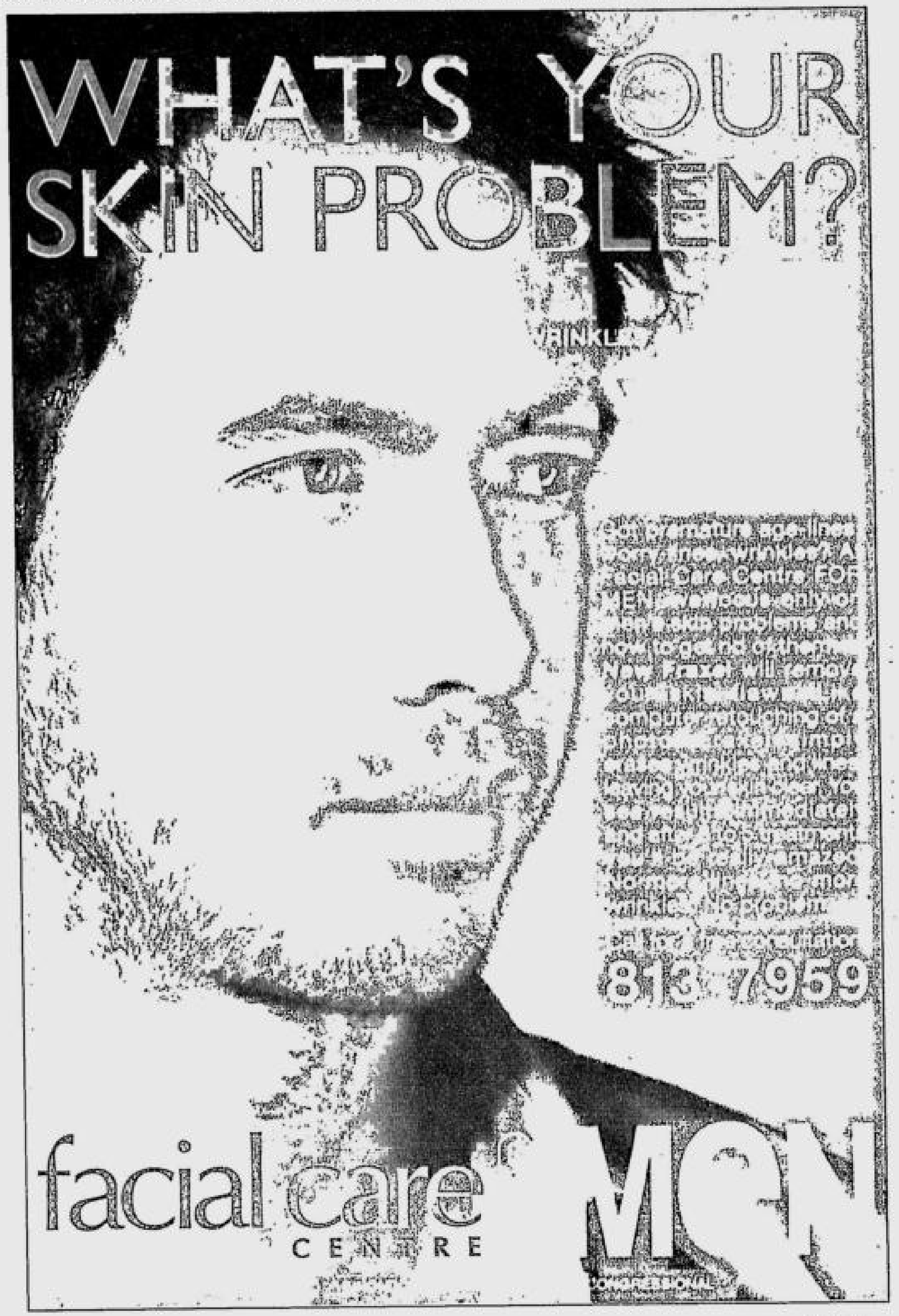
**By Cesar C. Villariba Jr.,** *Contributor*
**Photos by Rudy Esperas**

GARBED IN A WHITE COTTON ROBE that draped his medium-height frame, Sri Sri (His Holiness) Ravi Shankar, founder of the Art of Living Foundation, appeared compelling in the childlike manner his eyes lit up as he gave a message as simple as it was urgent: Love and wisdom can prevail over hatred and distress.

When asked if the guru (Sanskrit word for teacher) could teach politicians something they lack like, uh, love, Shankar replied, "I don't think they are going to listen. Most of the time they are busy talking." But he was quick to add that at other times he worked well with politicians who shared his vision of peace and basic human values.

Even as Shankar advocated social justice, he had wise words for pursuing it: "Get out of the victim consciousness. It can take the energy away from you." He then proposed:

WHAT THE MIND/ C3



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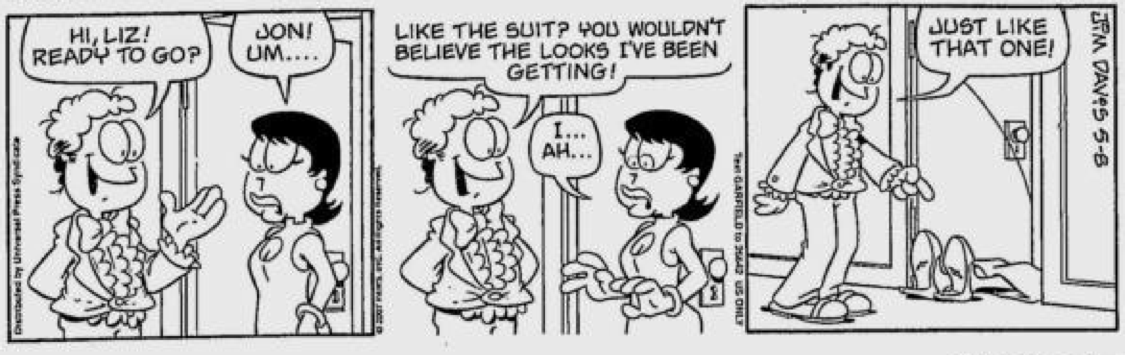
glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU

www.ayalamalls.com.ph

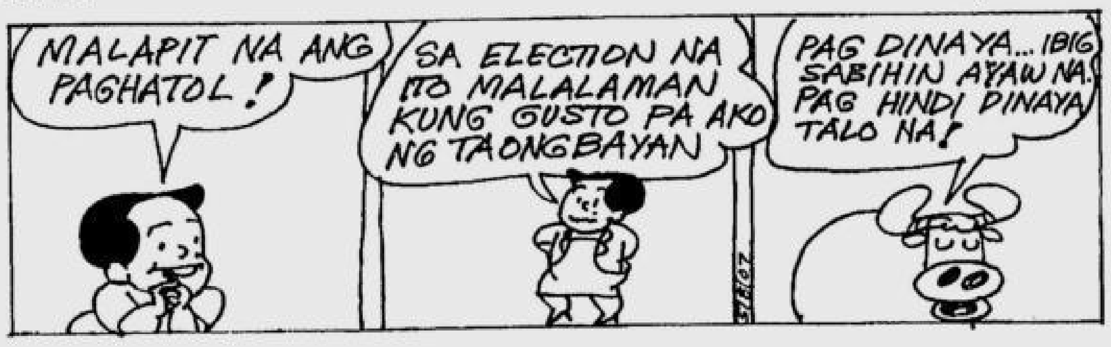
## GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


HI, LIZ! READY TO GO?
JON! UM....
LIKE THE SUIT? YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE LOOKS I'VE BEEN GETTING!
I... AH...
JUST LIKE THAT ONE!
JIM DAVIS 5-8

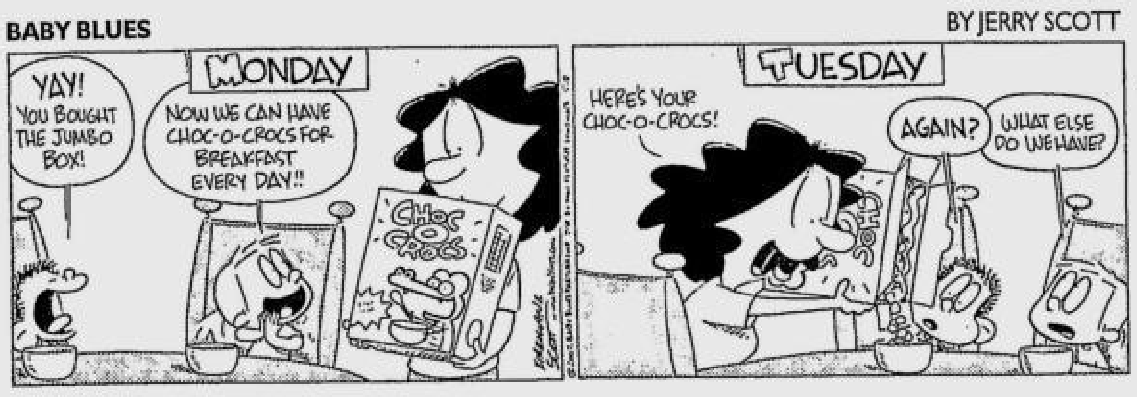
## A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MALAPIT NA ANG PAGHATOL!
SA ELECTION NA ITO MALALAMAN KUNG GUSTO PA AKO NG TAONGBAYAN
PAG DINAYA... IBIG SABIHIN AYAW NA. PAG HINDI DINAYA TALO NA!

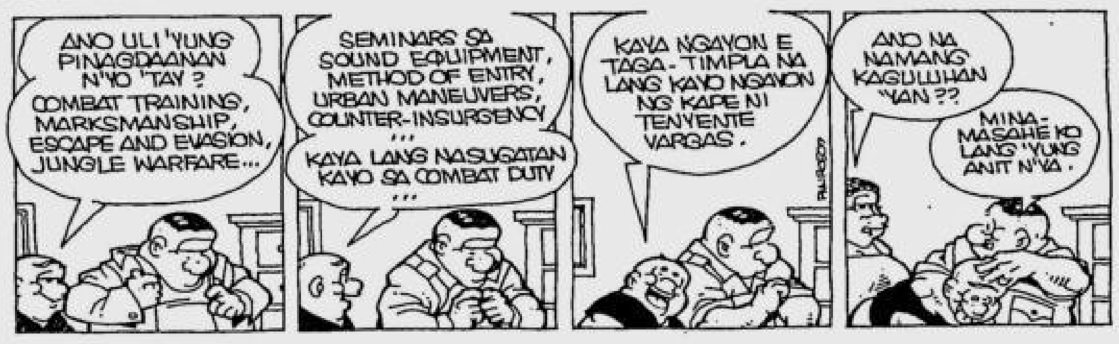
## BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


MONDAY
YAY! YOU BOUGHT THE JUMBO BOX!
NOW WE CAN HAVE CHOC-O-CROCS FOR BREAKFAST EVERY DAY!!
CHOC O CROCS
TUESDAY
HERE'S YOUR CHOC-O-CROCS!
AGAIN?
WHAT ELSE DO WE HAVE?

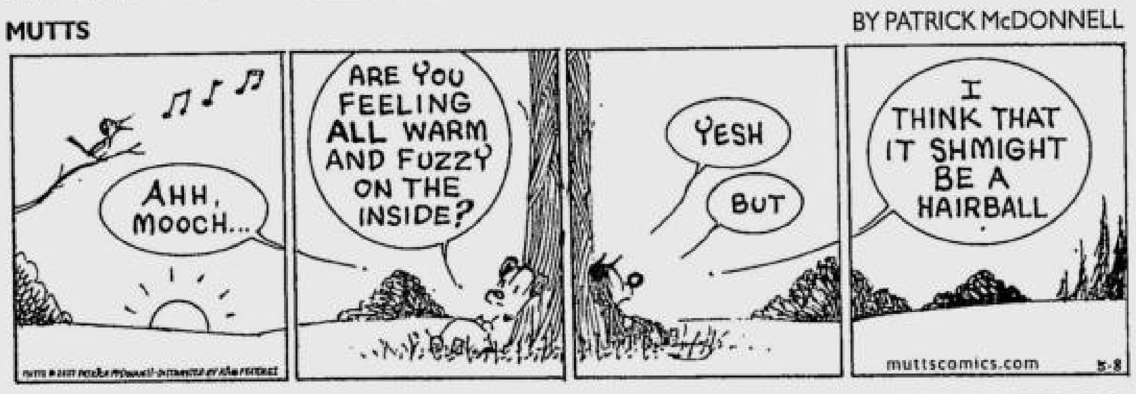
## PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO ULI 'YUNG PINAGDAANAN N'YO 'TAY? COMBAT TRAINING, MARKSMANSHIP, ESCAPE AND EVASION, JUNGLE WARFARE...
SEMINARS SA SOUND EQUIPMENT, METHOD OF ENTRY, URBAN MANEUVERS, COUNTER-INSURGENCY...
KAYA LANG NASUGATAN KAYO SA COMBAT DUTY...
KAYA NGAYON E TAGA-TIMPLA NA LANG KAYO NGAYON NG KAPE NI TENYENTE VARGAS.
ANO NA NAMANG KAGULUHAN 'YAN??
MINA-MASAHE KO LANG 'YUNG ANIT N'YA.

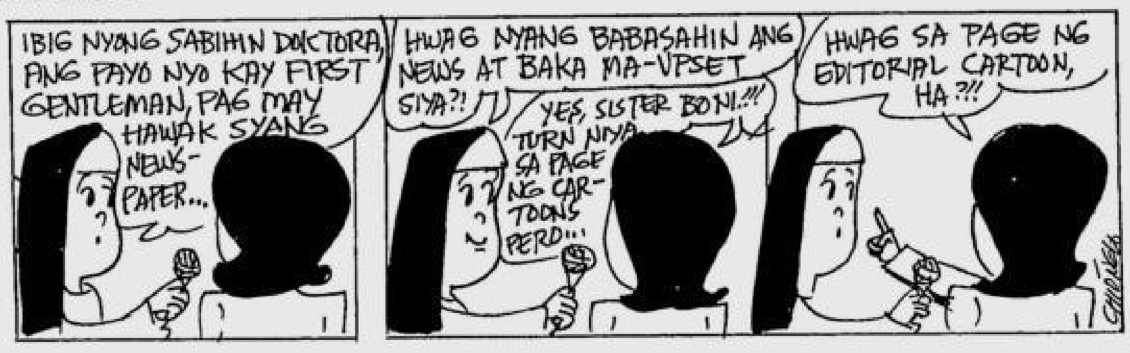
## MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


AHH, MOOCH...
ARE YOU FEELING ALL WARM AND FUZZY ON THE INSIDE?
YESH
BUT
I THINK THAT IT SHMIGHT BE A HAIRBALL
muttscomics.com
5-8

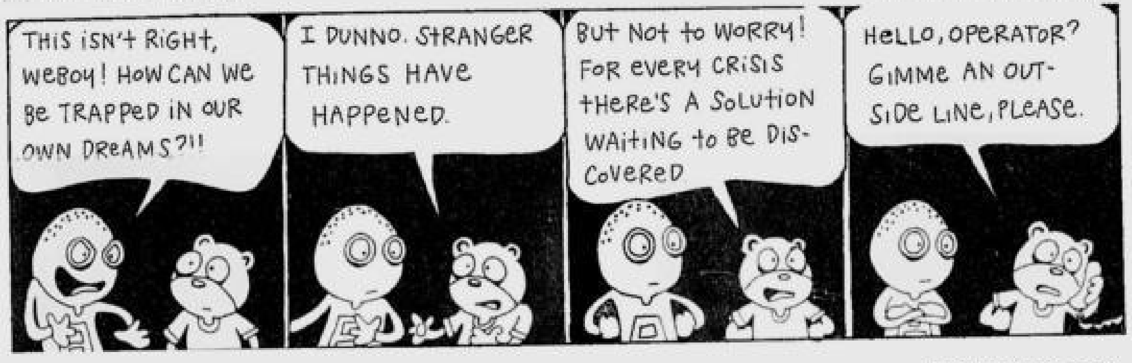
## LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


IBIG NYONG SABIHIN DOKTORA, ANG PAYO NYO KAY FIRST GENTLEMAN, PAG MAY HAWAK SYANG NEWS-PAPER...
HWAG NYANG BABASAHIN ANG NEWS AT BAKA MA-UPSET SIYA?!
YES, SISTER BONI!!!
TURN NIYA SA PAGE NG CARTOONS PERO...
HWAG SA PAGE NG EDITORIAL CARTOON, HA?!!

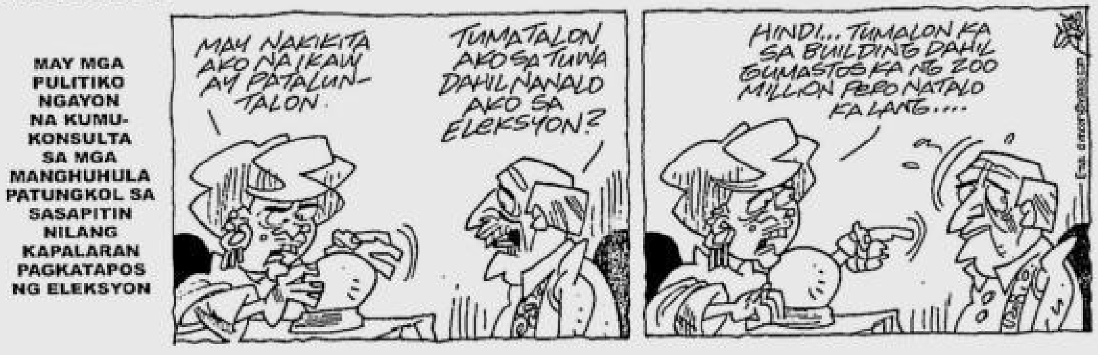
## ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THIS ISN'T RIGHT, WEBOY! HOW CAN WE BE TRAPPED IN OUR OWN DREAMS?!!
I DUNNO. STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED.
BUT NOT TO WORRY! FOR EVERY CRISIS THERE'S A SOLUTION WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED
HELLO, OPERATOR? GIMME AN OUTSIDE LINE, PLEASE.

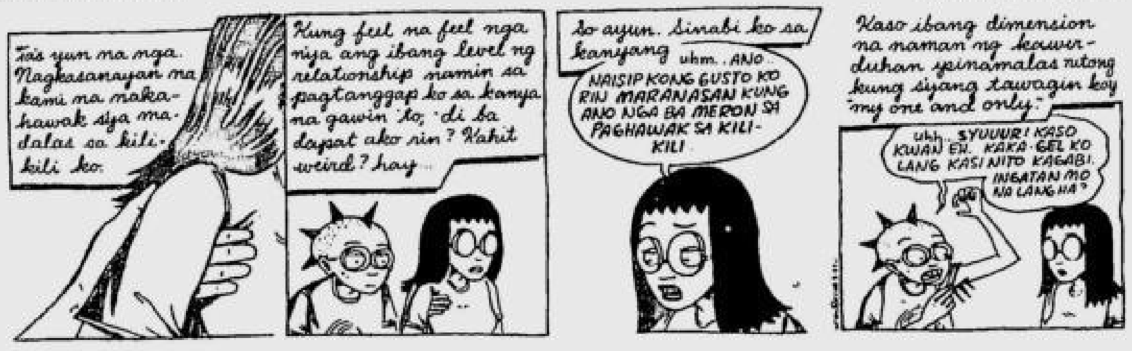
## DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS


MAY MGA PULITIKO NGAYON NA KUMUKONSULTA SA MGA MANGHUHULA PATUNGKOL SA SASAPITIN NILANG KAPALARAN PAGKATAPOS NG ELEKSYON
MAY NAKIKITA AKO NA IKAW AY PATALUN-TALON.
TUMATALON AKO SA TUWA DAHIL NANALO AKO SA ELEKSYON?
HINDI... TUMALON KA SA BUILDING DAHIL GUMASTOS KA NG 200 MILLION PERO NATALO KA LANG....

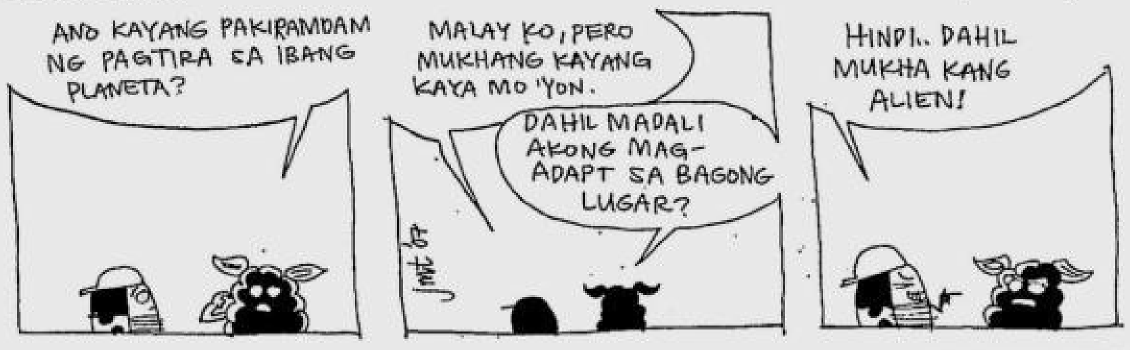
## KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


Tas yun na nga. Nagkasanayan na kami na makahawak siya madalas sa kili-kili ko.
Kung feel na feel nga niya ang ibang level ng relationship namin sa pagtanggap ko sa kanya na gawin 'to, 'di ba dapat ako rin? Kahit weird? hay...
So ayun. Sinabi ko sa kanyang
uhm.. ANO NAISIP KONG GUSTO KO RIN MARANASAN KUNG ANO NGA BA MERON SA PAGHAWAK SA KILI-KILI
Kaso ibang dimension na naman ng kawirduhan ipinamalas nitong kung siyang tawagin koy "my one and only."
uhh.. SYUUUR! KASO KWAN EH. KAKA-GEL KO LANG KASI NITO KAGABI. INGATAN MO NA LANG HA?

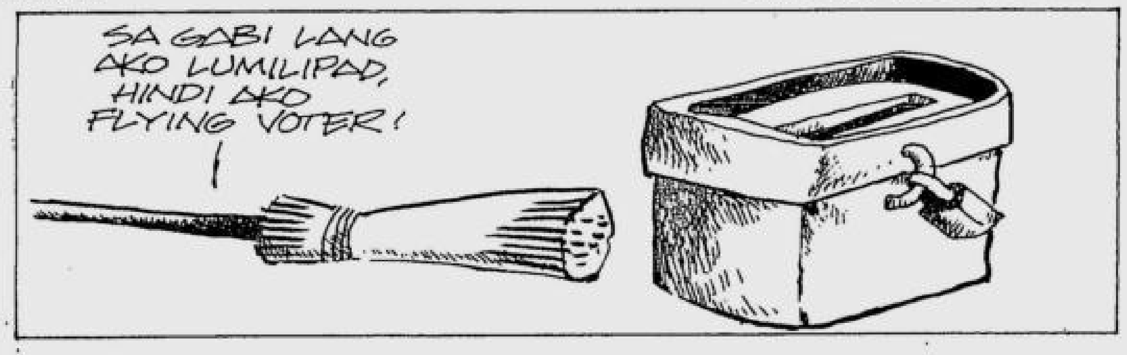
## MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO KAYANG PAKIRAMDAM NG PAGTIRA SA IBANG PLANETA?
MALAY KO, PERO MUKHANG KAYANG KAYA MO 'YON.
DAHIL MADALI AKONG MAG-ADAPT SA BAGONG LUGAR?
HINDI.. DAHIL MUKHA KANG ALIEN!

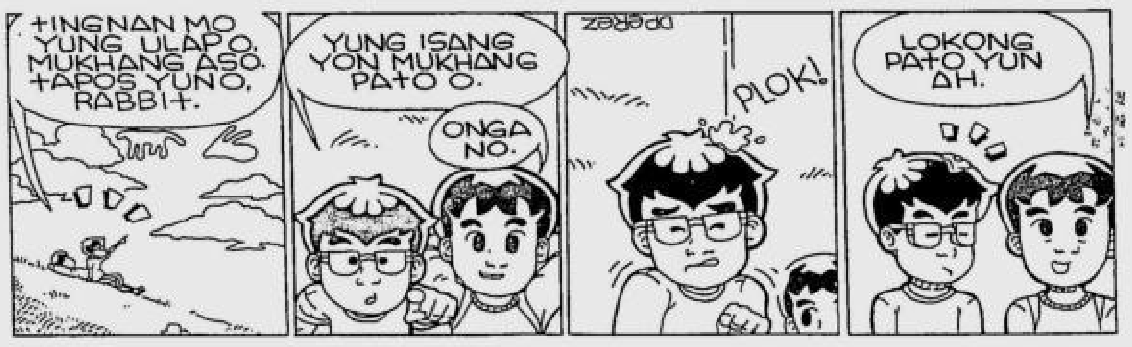
## TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

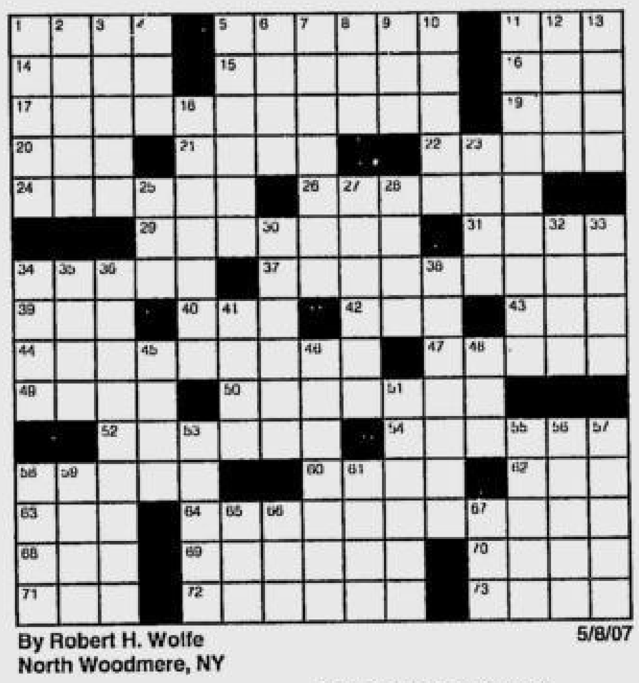

SA GABI LANG AKO LUMILIPAD, HINDI AKO FLYING VOTER!

## SALAMIN

BY DARWIN PEREZ


TINGNAN MO YUNG ULAP O. MUKHANG ASO. TAPOS YUNO, RABBIT.
YUNG ISANG YON MUKHANG PATO O.
ONGA NO.
PLOK!
LOKONG PATO YUN AH.

## DAILY CROSSWORD



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

5/8/07

**ACROSS**
1 Singer Adams
5 Piglets
11 Pat
14 YMCA part
15 Like a revealing dress
16 Mature
17 Franco holding a chess piece?
19 Regret
20 Afore
21 Lima location
22 Glacial ridge
24 Hate
26 Big house
29 Questionable lawyer
31 Married woman
34 Right-hand page
37 Permanent setting holding a chess piece?
39 Writer Levin
40 Also
42 Pompous fool
43 Elev.
44 Fry holding a chess piece?
47 "Midnight Cowboy" role
49 External: pref.
50 Ensnared
52 Poorest, excusewise
54 More unworldly
58 Abrasive cloth
60 Hebrew month
62 Naval noncom
63 Org. with maps
64 Kenyan salon holding a chess piece?
68 Pink Floyd founder Barrett
69 Francis or Dahl
70 Went by car
71 Slalom starter?
72 Kept back
73 Militant deity

**DOWN**
1 Fix securely
2 "The Wreck of the Mary ___"
3 Map box
4 Atty. trailer
5 Like icy weather
6 Cultivator, at times
7 Confess
8 Serve perfectly
9 Chewy antacid
10 Eye sores
11 Moonless period holding a chess piece?
12 Chills and fever
13 Miller or Molson
18 Results
23 Planted, as grass
25 Winter term at MIT
27 Disavow
28 Bothers
30 John French and Alfred
32 Needs for Newtons
33 Inside: pref.
34 Rampant
35 Actor Roberts
36 Pick stars holding chess piece?
38 Begin, e.g.
41 Mayberry kid
45 Kind of frost
46 Irrigated
48 Tax mo.
51 Hot sandwich on rye
53 Talking bird
55 Blood of the gods
56 Olden poetry
57 Lassoes
58 Relaxation
59 Say Hey Kid
61 Actress Anderson
65 Exist
66 Feeling poorly
67 Lady of Sp.

**Monday's Puzzle Solved**

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| O | R | C | A | ■ | B | A | G | S | ■ | P | H | O | T | O |
| Z | O | O | M | ■ | A | T | L | I | ■ | R | I | D | E | S |
| A | G | U | A | ■ | S | O | I | L | ■ | O | G | E | E | S |
| R | U | S | H | L | I | M | B | A | U | G | H | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| K | E | Y | S | I | N | ■ | ■ | S | S | E | ■ | C | S | A |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | N | E | B | R | ■ | A | N | G | L | E | D |
| S | P | E | E | D | T | R | A | P | ■ | Y | I | E | L | D |
| T | I | D | E | ■ | S | E | G | A | R | ■ | G | A | L | L |
| A | T | I | L | T | ■ | R | A | C | E | H | O | R | S | E |
| T | H | E | S | I | S | ■ | S | O | S | A | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| E | S | S | ■ | T | I | C | ■ | ■ | C | H | A | N | T | S |
| ■ | ■ | ■ | H | U | R | R | Y | S | U | N | D | O | W | N |
| T | O | T | A | L | ■ | A | O | N | E | ■ | A | P | I | A |
| U | V | U | L | A | ■ | I | G | O | R | ■ | G | A | R | R |
| G | A | B | O | R | ■ | G | A | B | S | ■ | E | R | L | E |

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5/8/07

## HOROSCOPE

**YOU BORN TODAY:** You love beautiful things—wood, pewter, gold, silver and antiques. Many of you are collectors. You have strong morals and opinions. You're fearless in your fight for justice. You don't worry about what others think of you: You say what you mean and you mean what you say. Work hard to build or construct something this year. Your rewards will soon follow.

**Birthdate of:** Enrique Iglesias, singer; Melissa Gilbert, actress; Ray Whitney, hockey player.

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19):** Be alert for new ways of boosting your income, because it's possible for you to dream up fresh moneymaking ideas today. You also might find money or lose it. Or you might buy something unusual or high-tech.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20):** You feel alive and eager for life today. You're raring to go! Expect to meet new faces or see new places. There's excitement in the air.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20):** You might feel excited today and not know why. Curiosity and eagerness are part of the undercurrent of your day. Surprise news related to governments is possible.

**CANCER (June 21 to July 22):** Quite likely, a friend will do something to surprise you today. Alternatively, you might meet someone who is rather bizarre or different from you. Be a people watcher today.

**LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22):** Stay on your toes today, because bosses, parents, teachers or any authority figure in your life could surprise you. Be ready to jump in any direction.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22):** Unexpected opportunities to travel or to get further education or training in some way are likely today. Something in the media might shock you.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22):** Surprise gifts, goodies and favors from others might come your way today. Keep your pockets open. (And put a smile on your face!)

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21):** Partners and close friends might do bizarre things or something to surprise you today. Alternatively, you or someone else feels very independent, and consequently wants more space.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21):** New high-tech equipment could be introduced to where you work today. Alternatively, there could be computer crashes, power outages or interruptions to your workday.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19):** Flirtations are exciting today! All sorts of unexpected things might occur. You feel more bold and daring. Parents should be vigilant with children, because they might do something unpredictable.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18):** Unexpected company could drop by today. Expected guests might be a no-show. That's because something unexpected or unpredictable will occur at home today or within your family.

**PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20):** You're full of bright, original ideas today. In large measure, this is because you're stimulated by new people you're meeting right now. It's an exciting day full of surprises!

## CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

**Conceptis Sudoku** by Dave Green

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | | 4 | | | | 5 | | 7 |
| | | | 5 | 6 | 7 | | | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | 1 | 7 | | 3 | 4 | 6 | |
| 4 | | | | 1 | | | | 2 |
| | 2 | 9 | 6 | | 5 | 3 | 8 | |
| | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 4 | 3 | 2 | | | |
| 2 | | 7 | | | | 8 | | 6 |

Difficulty Level ★★

5/08

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### HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9.
Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

**Answer to previous puzzle**

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 3 | 8 |
| 7 | 2 | 1 | 8 | 3 | 6 | 4 | 9 | 5 |
| 8 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 2 |
| 1 | 4 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 2 | 7 |
| 2 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| 5 | 6 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 8 | 1 |
| 4 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 9 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 6 |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 5 | 9 |
| 9 | 5 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 4 |

Difficulty Level ★

HIS Holiness Sri Sri Ravi Shankar before US senators and congressmen and the chief of staff to the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon as he unveiled a proposed Universal Declaration of Human Values at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, DC, during his foundation's 25th anniversary in March. The declaration provides a pragmatic vision for the world community, offering a roadmap for the way out of the increasing conflict and violence that is engulfing the world today.

# What the mind conceives, the body achieves

From page C1

"Rather than be anti-something, focus on being pro-something."

A world without violence is not just a dream but a goal for the 51-year-old acknowledged humanitarian and spiritual leader. Because of his social work encompassing conflict resolution, disaster relief and community empowerment not only in his native India, but also in Sri Lanka, Kashmir, and the Balkans, Sri Sri Ravi Shankar has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.

Today his Art of Living (AOL) Foundation is the largest volunteer network offering inspirational programs in 144 countries and works in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

His recent talks and workshop at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel drew a diverse crowd of spiritual seekers from Mongolia to Mindanao, including nuns and priests, yoga practitioners, corporate executives, skeptics and atheists. They found substance and simplicity in the way the AOL founder presented a practical path to health and happiness.

## The Filipino experience

His long hair and beard acting as his "antennae and antlers," Shankar sized up his first Philippine audience, of which some 400 have taken an AOL course since it was introduced in the country.

While many gurus will say that meditation and yoga postures are not for the weak of heart, none has a clearer message than that yoga can be wholly fun, easy to assimilate and is good for one's health.

His antennae sensing a student's tension, he commented, "Do not take notes because it is an indication that you are instructing your mind to absorb the information later and not now."

The student learned that one could not approach a guru as a detached observer, a partial participant, much as a journalist would. The note-taking ended where the experiential lessons began.

The AOL founder invited participants to return to their natural childlike state, saying, "Modern man is caught in a cycle where he fears for the future, is anxious about the past, and misses the present moment as life unfolds."

He spoke of the need to relieve the body of stress and negative feelings. "Anxiety sends negative energies to our body cells, making them weak and helpless against virulent viruses and pestering parasites."

In his own easy manner, the AOL guru led workshop participants to a journey of learning through healthy breathing and mind relaxation. "The purpose of breathing is not only to keep you alive but to get sufficient energy (or life force) that will make the mind at ease," he said. "When the body relaxes, the mind expands."

THE AOL founder has made available to all age groups and sectors of society a combination of ancient breathing techniques, meditation and modern group dynamics.

Shankar, who obtained a degree in modern science at the age of 17, said the pranayama technique of breathing through the nostrils alternately improves the parasympathetic (involuntary) and sympathetic nervous system. From the medical perspective, this ancient art of breathing helps the pineal, the hypothalamus and the thyroid glands to function at their optimum level.

"Breathing is a way of controlling the mind in a natural and harmonious manner," he explained. "Meditation is a form of de-concentrating the mind. In outward activity, you need to concentrate to accomplish what you intend to finish. In inward meditation you need to do the opposite."

## Mindfulness

The lesson continued: "Your body is a sacred temple. The divine is within you. You need to honor it by making the connection. Be aware of what is happening inside your body. First, be aware of your breathing... the inhaling and exhaling, then... the rhythm. The body is made of trillions of cells that radiate and energize. They respond to vibrations, positive and negative. What the mind conceives, the body achieves."

The workshop progressed to the experiential phase of looking inside oneself through meditation.

"The breath is a powerful detoxifier. It is also the power of presence in a person," AOL instructor Ruth Kuok from Hong Kong echoed as she conducted exercises on how to induce relaxation through rhythmic breathing.

Kuok asked her wards to sit still, observe their inner self and "rid the mind of noise."

Meditation is a form of mental hygiene, the process described as "cleaning the mind of disturbance and toxic thoughts that create stress." In the silence, participants kept still, relaxed and slowly experienced a blissful state.

Toward the end of the workshop, participants went through a "laughing" exercise to "determine your own emotion unaffected by other people." By clapping, participants demonstrated spontaneity and enthusiasm at life.

Students were coaxed to view the exercises with awe and wonder. They did so with enthusiasm and in the spirit of camaraderie, turning up the energy level in the hall into one of fun and enjoyment.

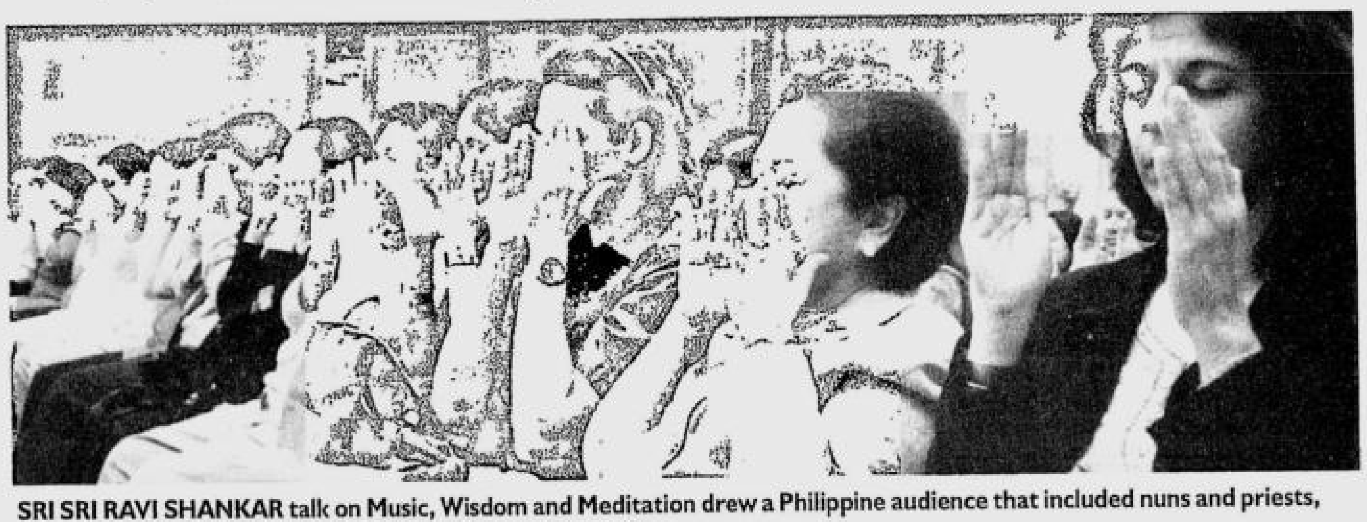
The success of Sri Sri Ravi Shankar's workshops is evident in the thousands who have attended who reportedly come out of depression, suicidal tendencies and aggressive behavior.

What started as a special program for jail inmates in India proved to be effective in releasing stress and anger, breaking the cycle of violence and helping prisoners re-enter into society as progressive individuals that it has now been adopted by many countries, benefiting 150,000 prisoners worldwide.

One writer who had confessed to an atheist past was uncharacteristically so taken by the experience that he exclaimed, "Everyone looks beautiful!"

The prescribed exercises of breathing and relaxation had produced immediate effects.

A TYPICAL Art of Living course conducted by instructor Ruth Kuok includes relaxation exercises that can be wholly fun, easy to assimilate and good for one's health.



SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR talk on Music, Wisdom and Meditation drew a Philippine audience that included nuns and priests, yoga practitioners, corporate executives, and prominent Metro women.

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### INNER AWARENESS

*Jaime Licauco*

# Limbo's impact on Philippine folk beliefs

SO NOW THE VATICAN HAS officially declared that Limbo does not exist as it had taught since the 13th century.

Limbo, from the Latin word meaning "border" or "edge," was considered by medieval Catholic theologians to be a state or place reserved for the unbaptized dead, including good people who lived before the coming of Christ.

The declaration was made by the International Theological Commission, a body of Vatican-appointed theologians who advise the Pope and the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The present Pope, Benedict XVI, headed the Congregation for 20 years before becoming Pope in 2005.

According to the news item that appeared in the INQUIRER on April 22, "while the report does not carry the authority of a papal encyclical or even the weight of a formal document from the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, it was approved by the Pope on Jan. 19 and was published on the Internet—an indication that it was intended to be widely read by the faithful."

## Implications

The implications of this declaration, that Limbo does not exist and therefore infants who die without being baptized can still be saved and enjoy eternal happiness, will be debated for years to come by theologians. Let us leave the debate to them. What interests me at the moment is what impact this reversal of a long held Church teaching will have on Philippine folklore, on the beliefs and practices of Filipino *albolaryos*, healers, occult practitioners and mystics.

Philippine folk religious beliefs often mimic or follow the outward rituals of the Catholic Church while changing their meaning or intent. For example, the Catholic belief that unbaptized infants who die go to limbo has given rise to the folk belief that such infants become *tianaks*, or *engkantos* who are mischievous elemental creatures. The negative *engkantos* are believed to be those who die without being baptized and therefore are still tainted by original sin.

Another example of such mimicry is in the practice of sorcery. I learned that one well-known and confessed sorcerer of Siquijor Island (who died already), used to go to the oldest Church in the island to pray for the success of what he was about to do, i.e. to inflict sickness, harm or even death on his victim. He would ask the help of God and his angels to help him succeed in his task, saying it is not his intention to harm this person but was only hired to do so. This is similar to the perverted reasoning of a hired killer who justifies his action by saying he is only doing a job he is being paid to do and had nothing against the person he was going to kill. And therefore the assassin should not be blamed for the crime.

A French film company actually filmed the entire process of sorcery performed by this sorcerer, from the initial preparation to its actual execution. It's a sickening and shocking movie to watch. Only the victim's identity was not shown. What was shocking to me was that all the preparation the sorcerer made followed exactly the rituals of the Catholic Mass and asked God's blessing for what he was about to do.

How the Filipino folk belief in the unbaptized children as the bad guys will evolve, now that limbo has been eliminated, remains to be seen. Will belief in *tianaks* or negative *engkantos* be redefined too? We can only speculate what will happen.

## Revised teachings

This is not the first time the Catholic Church has reversed its own teaching or belief. The Church used to believe that the sun revolved around a stationary earth. And Galileo was arrested and put on trial for saying otherwise. He would have been executed had he not retracted his statement. Centuries later, the Church apologized to him.

A worse fate befell the young French peasant woman, Joan of Arc. She was burned at the stake as a witch. Four hundred years later, the Catholic Church declared her to be a saint!

The late Pope John Paul II, now in the process of being declared a saint, also issued an apology to those who suffered from the persecutions by the Church, referring to the excesses of the infamous Inquisitions during which tens of thousands of innocent men, women and children were mercilessly tortured and killed for allegedly "practicing witchcraft" or "being in league with the devil."

As science advances our knowledge of the universe we live in, more outmoded teachings of the Church will be revised or redefined in the near future, just as it happened to the belief in Limbo.

Would it be farfetched to speculate that when science finally proves the possibility of multiple rebirth, the church may also reverse its current stand against reincarnation?

*Note: For inquiries on books, paranormal services and seminars on Inner Mind Development, ESP and Intuition Development, and Soulmates, Karma & Reincarnation conducted by this writer, call 8107245, 8926806; or fax 8159890. E-mail the author at innerawareness_2005@yahoo.com.ph*

## Summer workshop on inner wellness

THE INNER LIFE WELLNESS Center offers health and wellness summer workshops, body-mind integration sessions, fun exercises and activities to harmonize your body, mind, and emotions. Workshop facilitator is Randy Misael Sebastian Dellosa, MD, Psy.D.

Basic Life Support Training Workshop: Save Lives Through Artificial Respiration and Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation will be held May 11, 6-10 p.m., and May 12, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Healing Touch Therapy Training Course: Learn a Scientific Approach to Hands-on Healing will be held May 19, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Personal Spirituality Workshop: Explore and Discover Our Personal Path to the Sacred is on May 26, 1-5 p.m.

The Inner Life Wellness Center is at Unit 302, Times Square Building, 57 Examiner corner Times Streets, West Triangle, Quezon City (Landmark: Grills and Sizzles Restaurant and Sucree Coffee Shop on the ground floor). Call 4156529 or 4157964. Visit www.randydellosa.com.

# For women at leisure

**MADE** of soft cotton with a sexy plunging neck line and a floral print from the '70s—for a sleek and dressy style

THE ADIDAS ORIGINALS Sleek Series returns with sleek and feminine re-designs of classic Adidas styles for women.

The distinctive pieces, designed in special collaboration with renowned French street artist Fafi, depict exclusive graphics of her famed 'Fafinette' characters. Blending femininity and iconic styles are the floral pieces with bold floral designs from the Adidas archives.

The Adidas summer collection also draws on Archive and Country Club themes. For women, summer brings to life ideals of freedom and leisure, taking inspiration from quintessential sports such as sailing, golf and tennis—in true heritage style, for high end tailored looks to classic Freizeit silhouettes.

The Adidas Originals Spring/Summer 2007 collection is available at Adidas stores nationwide.

**SUPERGIRL** Jacket combines the Adidas Originals Trefoil and classic 3-Stripes with a Fafi graphic with plush satin and leather shoes with same graphic.

**TANK** top by Fafi and the Fafinettes, satin upper and Pro Model Sleek De Lux shoes

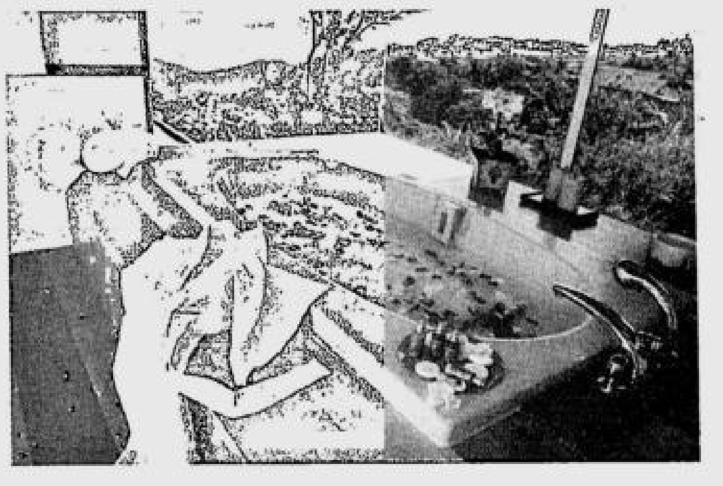
**THE FREIZEIT** style of the '70s. Soft cotton with silver lurex stripes

# *R&R for Mom on her special day*

FOR MOTHER'S DAY, Mandarin Hotel Oriental offers a Rest and Rejuvenate Package on all weekends of May starting at P4,000 for an overnight stay for two in a Superior room. Included are breakfast at Paseo Uno; a complimentary 30-minute foot massage (when booking an 80-minute massage); 10-percent discount on gift certificates and retail items purchased at The Spa; and a bouquet of flowers.

Mothers may try the rejuvenating package at the Spa consisting of two facials and P2,000 worth of spa retail items for a total cost of P6,300. The package is offered throughout May and represents 20-percent off The Spa's usual rates.

Call 7508888.



## Weekend with a view

Discovery Country Suites in Tagaytay has seven suites you can choose from to give Mom a treat. This month, local residents can avail of special discounted rates for Monday-Thursday bookings. Rates start at P5,500+ with breakfast for two and complimentary wine and cheese during cocktail hour included. Call 6838383 or (46)4134567.

# Skincare treats fit for a queen

### Some things to feed her skin

SKIN FOOD HAS THE PERFECT CHOICE of products that will help Mom nourish her skin from sunrise to sunset:

- Avocado line—Avocado Rich Toner, Essence I and II, Emulsion, Cream and Eye Balm—is for deep moisturizing. It is a combination of avocado oil rich in vitamin and protein and extracts from sweet potato, inner skin of green bamboo, water lily and lotus flower. As the most nutritious of all fruits, avocado has 11 vitamins and 14 minerals.
- Mushroom Double Care Essense and Cream have retinol for anti-wrinkle treatment and albutin for excellent whitening, making the skin elastic and bright by eliminating fine wrinkles
- Brown Sugar Mask is rich with minerals and vitamins effective in exfoliating, and good for moisturizing dry and aging skin.

Gentle Exfoliating Mask with Rice Bran soothes skin irritation and whitens skin. Gamma oryzanol found in rice bran provides an excellent whitening effect.

- Apple Whitening line—Apple Whitening Toner, Emulsion, Essence and Cream—is abundant in Vit. C and inorganic matter, such as Kalium, Natrium, Calcium, which increases immunity against bacteria, making skin strong and healthy.

Skin Food is located at 2/F Bridgeway, SM Megamall; 2/F Main Building, SM City North Edsa; G/F Entertainment Hall, SM Mall of Asia; and soon to open at 2/F Ayala Center Cebu, SM Baguio and Rustans Essences.

LUSH SHOWCASES GIFTS AND TREATS with lots of fun and fizz for mothers:

- Big Hugs (P275 for 100 g) a giant round pink soap that gently cleanses and leaves skin soft and silky smooth.
- Happy Pill (P295), a double dose of Lush's most scent-sitive fragrances from its best-selling shower range. One half is the Olive Branch scent with its uplifting orange, lemon and mandarin and olive oil and sea salt that help mind and body; the other half is Happy Hippy fragrance with grapefruit, bergamot and frankincense.

- Pop in the Bath (P245) floral bubble bar, a blend of lemon oil, orange flower absolute, bergamot and gardenia essential oils that gently cleanses and softens the skin. Choose from pink, blue and green with a flower shaped topping.
- Mom Gift Box, wrapped in its spring-like blossom paper, brims with Lush's fragrant, fun and uplifting, skincare treats like The Comforter ballistic (new), Each Peach Massage Bar, Honey I Washed The Kids Soap, Butterball Ballistic and Helping Hands hand cream.

Lush stores are located in Glorietta 4, Power Plant Mall, Shangri-La Mall, Greenbelt 3, SM Mall of Asia, and Bonifacio High Street.

## Simple beauty solutions

Mary Kay, a direct seller of skincare products and cosmetics, offers simple beauty solutions to career-oriented mothers:

- Tinted Moisturizer with Sunscreen SPF 20, which gives sheer color, oil-free moisturization and UVA/UVB protection.
- 2-In-1 Body Wash and Shave combines the convenience of a cleanser and shaving product in gel formula.
- Hydrating Lotion provides skin hydration that lasts up to 10 hours.
- Botanical Customized Skin Care Collection with Bio-Enriched complex, a blend of ingredients that includes ginseng, pomegranate and oat that help maintain skin's healthy appearance.

MARY KAY
MARY KAY
2-in-1 Body Wash & Shave
Hydrating Lotion

- TimeWise Miracle Set, an anti-aging skin care system that is customized in normal/dry and combination/oily formulas, meets skin care needs for day and night. This system is comprised of the TimeWise 3-In-1 Cleanser and TimeWise Age-Fighting Moisturizer and TimeWise Day Solution SPF 25 and TimeWise Night Solution.

Call 8596211 or log on to www.marykay.com.ph.

## Pamper Mom

Discovery Suites' Mother's Day package offers one-bedroom accommodations complete with breakfast for two at Serendipity Lounge and one-hour massage at Terra Wellness Spa. This package is available from May 11-13 at only P5,500+.

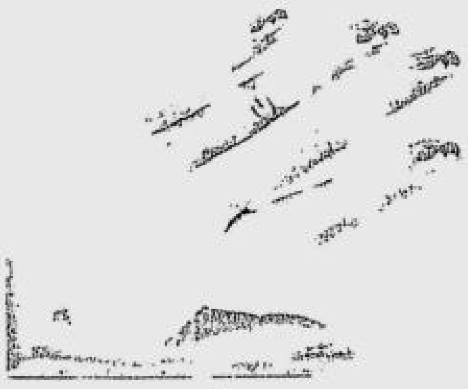
Treat Mom to a lunch buffet on May 13 at Discovery Suites' Restaurant 5 where moms dining will receive special gifts from Crabtree & Evelyn, Rustan's Marketing Corporation, Mossimo and Foreign Post, not to mention a five-minute hand massage at the Sta. Maria room.

Call 6838222.

## Help the body heal itself

Ki Spa in Greenhills offers a reflexology treatment for the whole body, starting with hand and foot reflexology, followed by an acupressure massage on the back, scalp massage and express facial.

The 90-minute therapy is designed to restore and maintain the body's natural equilibrium and encourage the body's natural ability to heal itself. The Ki Bodywork, the spa's 90-minute signature body massage, is an integration of traditional concepts and techniques of Shiatsu and Western therapeutic massage. Owned and managed by Neo Spa, Ki Spa is at 35 Wilson St., Greenhills. Call 7256789 or visit www.neo.ph.



## Fast and pretty

DIGITAL NAIL ART DOES NOT involve too much fuss at Bluewater Day Spa. After cleaning and buffing, nails are painted off-white and then dried in an automatic dryer.

Nails are then placed inside the digital nail art machine using clamps. This ensures that the nails are set in exact place before printing. For a finishing touch, each nail's outer area is cleaned to get rid of excess paint.

The designs, which vary from girlish to glamorous, can last for as long as two weeks. Digital nail art may also be personalized to include names, pictures or rhinestones.

BlueWater Day Spa's special summer promo includes a free foot massage with every digital nail art (either for hands or for toes). Blue Water Day Spa has branches in Makati, Alabang, Greenhills and Mother Ignacia Avenue, QC.

# Moisturizing is vital to skincare

VASELINE RECENTLY SURVEYED 100 Filipina women about their lifestyles and daily habits.

Results showed only 13 percent of the women surveyed get the recommended eight hours of sleep every day, while 17 percent don't eat a balanced diet. And 89 percent don't use sun protection on a daily basis!

Total Moisture
Aloe Cool & Fresh
Healthy White
Firming

Something as normal as washing or bathing using ordinary soaps can strip your skin of as much as 25 percent of its moisture. Stress causes a hormonal imbalance, and uses up the vitamins that are vital for healthy skin. Pollution, harmful UV rays are the other threats we subject our skin to every day.

When it comes to skin care, moisturizing is just as important as a healthy diet and lifestyle—and nobody understands the amazing design of skin like Vaseline.

For an organ that's composed of 90 percent moisture, too much air conditioning and alcohol, a bad diet and too little water can only mean one thing: skin dehydration!

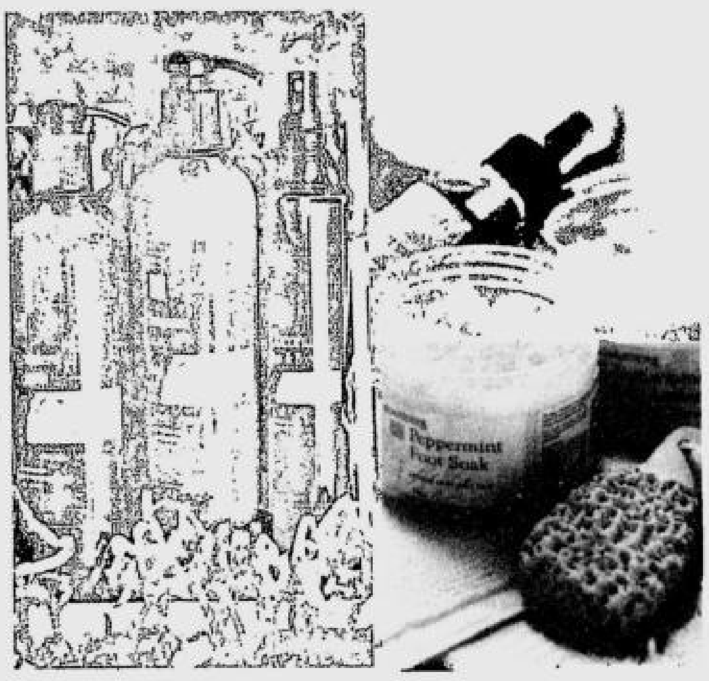
Keep skin healthy, nourished, and moisturized with Vaseline Total Moisture.

Have everyday protection from the sun's harsh rays by using Vaseline Healthy White, with Yogurt serum, Vitamin B3 and Triple sunscreen to keep skin's natural ability to maintain a light tone.

Coupled with exercise, help your skin stay firm and healthy with Vaseline Firming, specially formulated with Collagen and Seaweed extracts to give you firmer skin in just two weeks.

In addition to drinking fluids, it's important to replenish your skin's moisture loss. Refresh with Vaseline Aloe Cool & Fresh. It has a light formulation, Aloe Vera and Cucumber extracts that give skin a burst of hydration during hot days.

For your skin lifestyle needs, trust a brand that has been dedicated to caring for your skin for more than a century—Vaseline Intensive Care Lotion.



**BESTSELLERS ON SALE**

**The highly popular Zen Zest wooden gift sets are on sale at 20-percent off until May 18 to celebrate Mother's Day and Zen Zest's sixth anniversary. The discounted gift selections include the DIY foot spa set (foot soak, scrub and spray), the home fragrance set (linen and room fragrance) and the virgin coconut oil set (shampoo, conditioner and body oil). Zen Zest fragrance and body care products are available in SM, Robinsons and Ayala Malls and other leading shopping centers nationwide.**

KNOI Esmane, international south sea pearl designer, silver awardee; Sharmaine Ng, the first Filipino to win a gold award in the International South Sea Pearl Design Competition; Fai Co, founder and winner; and Zabeth Co, co-founder and top entrepreneur

# A glittering gem of an evening

**STYLISH** woman of substance Marivic Madrigal Vazquez

**HONG KONG-BASED** socialite-jetsetter, Nikki Chong

**YOUNG** world-class entrepreneur, Mandy de la Rama Santos

**ROSITA** Liong and Lily Gaw

**BETTY** and Wisdom Sy

**NATIONAL** Artist Ben Cab

**RICHARD** Merk and Ernie Fajardo

**CJ JUNTEREAL**, Krip Yuson and Mike Toledo

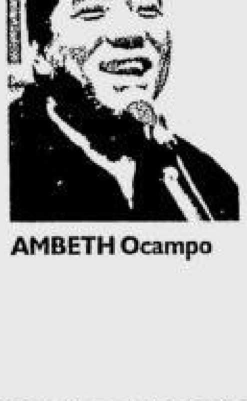
**AMANDO** Doronila

**PATIS** Tesoro and Mickey Fenix

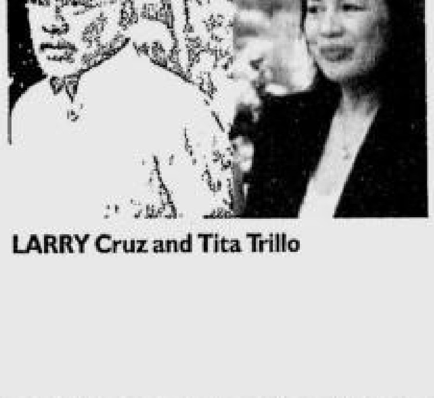
**GILDA** Cordero Fernando

**GEMMA** Cruz Araneta and Kit Tatad

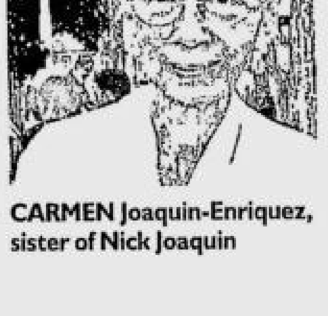
**ADRIAN** Cristobal



**AMBETH** Ocampo



**LARRY** Cruz and Tita Trillo



**CARMEN** Joaquin-Enriquez, sister of Nick Joaquin

## WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

*Maurice Arcache*

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

IT WAS A DAZZLING NIGHT OF BLING-blings, dahlings, when the Hoseki Jewelry held a fashion show at Rockwell Tent in Makati. Hoseki unveiled its latest collections: the Uber collection for the stylish modern man, and the Fantasie collection for the woman of elegance.

Welcoming the town's gem lovers were Hoseki founders **Fai Co** and **Beth Co**. Fai had won the silver in the International South Sea Pearl Design Competition. Also welcoming the guests were **Sharmaine Ng** and **Knoi Esmane**, gold and silver winners in the same competition.

The highlight of the glitzy happening was the homecoming of the "Sarimanok," Fai's winning entry in the 17 Best Designers of the World.

The design had been exhibited all over the globe, *palanggas*, and we held our breath during the unveiling of the truly awesome masterpiece.

### Remembering Abe

Leave it to brilliant writer **Nick Joaquin** to come out with a frank biography of the late **E. Aguilar "Abe" Cruz.**

"Abe: A Frank Sketch of E. Aguilar Cruz" was launched with a bang at the popular Abe restaurant in Serendra, *palanggas*. The launch was timed with the 15th death anniversary of Abe Cruz who, in his time, was a living legend, a well-loved intellectual, an erudite editor, essayist and humanist.

Appointed ambassador to the Unesco in the mid-'70s, Abe Cruz was also a raconteur, gourmand, and mentor to many bright and talented writers and artists who gravitated toward him.

The Holy Angel University's String Ensemble greeted the invitees who later indulged in endless cocktails and superb yummies from Abe restaurant, natch.

The launching looked like a grand meeting of intellectuals and power players. Guests included good-looking Taguig Mayor **Freddie Tinga**; Las Piñas Rep. **Cynthia Villar**; Hotel and Restaurant Association of the Philippines president **Humphrey O'Leary**; International Wine and Food Society Women's Chapter president **CJ Juntereal**; ABS-CBN Publishing GM **Thelma Sioson-San Juan**; Metro Magazine's **Glenna Aquino** of Metro Magazine; plus many others like them, dahlings.

Also rendering awesome performances were Ballet Philippines and premier soprano **Rachelle Gerodias.**

Two years in the making, "Abe" the book was, according to Abe Cruz's son, **Larry J. Cruz**, in his introduction: "A book waiting to be written by Nick." The author was a very close pal and journalistic and literary colleague of Abe Cruz and his wife, **Fely.**

Check out "Abe," *palanggas*, at LJC Restaurants and leading bookstores. Call 5229163.

### Anita Tortorici exhibit

Cosmo *Manille*'s smartest and chicest set were all *tres visible* for the grand opening of "The Art of Tai Chi," by San Francisco-based and internationally acclaimed watercolorist **Anita Tortorici**. Proceeds of the monthlong exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila will benefit the Met's children's programs, *palanggas*.

The gracious Anita, who has exhibited in Europe, America and Hong Kong, is the wife of **Edward Tortorici**, better known as **Manny V. Pangilinan**'s *consiglieri*! The whole officialdom of First Pacific, PLDT, Smart and Metro Pacific Investments Corp. (MPIC) were there for the opening. Heavyweights included MVP himself himself; PLDT/Smart president **Polly Nazareno**; close pal, business magnate **Butch Campos**; **Nonoy Colayco**; **Doris Magsaysay Ho**; and **Mara Pardo de Tavera.**

Popular architect and interior designer **Anton Mendoza**, an art collector himself, checked the works, dahlings. Also enjoying the show were Smart's dynamic events head, **Julie Carceller**, and Metro Pacific's good-looking, articulate man-about-town, **David Nugent**, no less, *palanggas*.

On behalf of MPIC, David Nugent said in his short speech: "We hope this to be the start of a long-term relationship with the Met, enabling and empowering it so that it can fulfill its long-standing mandate: to be a provider of art to people, in Manila and across the nation."

Hot personalities who attended the opening included Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas governor **Armando Tetangco**; popular British Ambassador **Peter Beckingham** and his adorable wife, **Jill**; Sri Lankan Ambassador **W.M. Senevirathana**; **Alvaro Pertierra** and **Marivic Vazquez**; former Ambassador to Washington, dashing **Albert del Rosario**, and his effervescent wife, **Gretchen**; and the Presidential Merit Medal recipient, artist **Juvenal Sansó.**

The best part about the fantastic exhibit is that more than a million pesos were raised from the sold-out show! That will definitely go a long way for the Met's children's program, *palanggas*. Not bad, huh!

### Nigel Barker in Manila

Our town is suffering from a heat wave, but since international celebrity photographer and British hunk **Nigel Barker** hit our shores some days ago, temperatures have soared even higher. And for once I ain't complaining about this kind of a heat, *palanggas*.

Of course, everyone knows Nigel Barker as the judge in "America's Next Top Model," along with **Tyra Banks**. He recently photographed the much-talked-about April issue of the Philippine Tatler, which scored a fashion coup by having Asia's first supermodel, Filipina **Anna Bayle**, on the cover.

Nigel is in town to do a series of talks on fashion, photography and makeovers at the Ayala Malls (Alabang Town Center, Glorietta and Greenbelt malls).

You can be sure that you will be hearing more about this man in the weeks and months to come, dahlings! And *moi* will be the first one to tell you all about it!

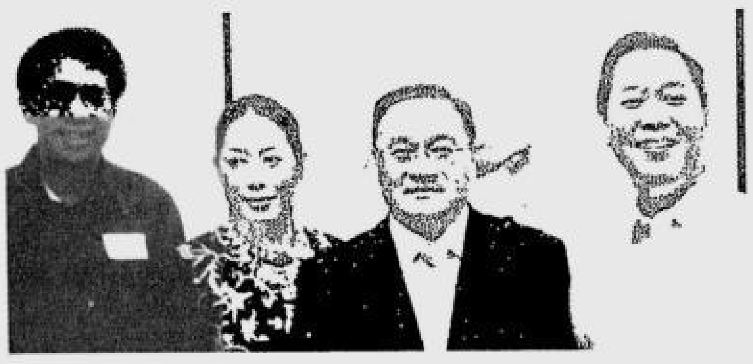
**BETTY** Ng, John Ng and Robert Kuan

**TERESA** Keh and Lani Keh

**MOLITA** Chua and Katrina Peña

**NATALIE** de Leon, Siok King and Elfil Lim

**BONNIE** and Eugene Lemi



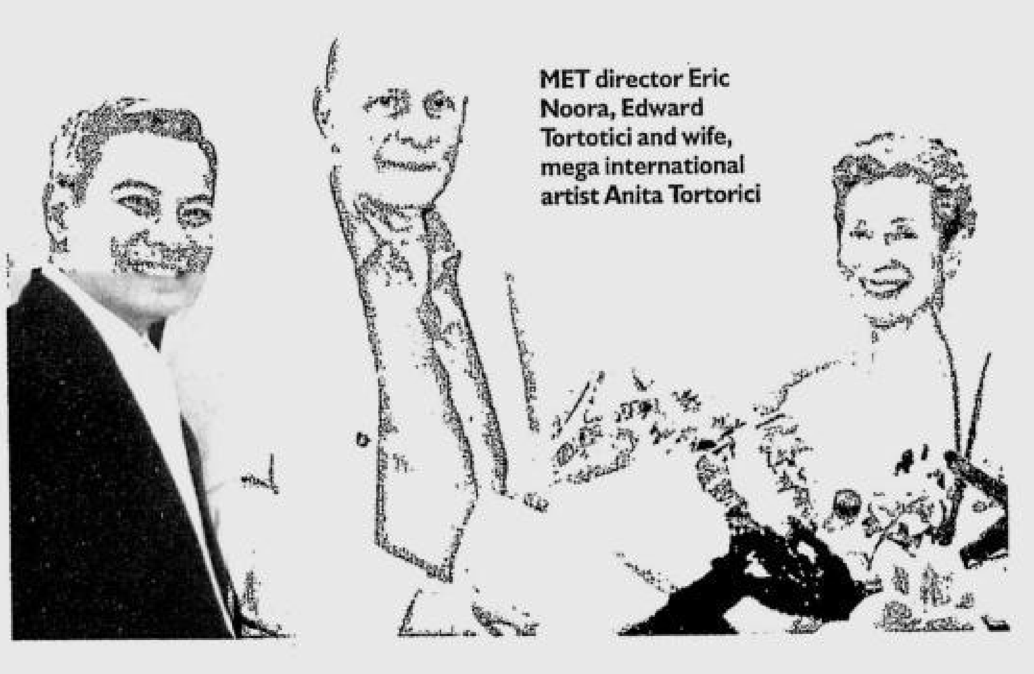
**ART LOVERS:** Nonoy Colayco, Doris Magsaysay Ho, Manny V. Pangilinan and business magnate Butch Campos

**POPULAR** British Ambassador Peter Beckingham and adorable wife Jill chat with Gov. Armando Tetangco (center)

**TOP** organic promoter Mara Pardo de Tavera

**SMART'S** Julie Carceller

**MPIC'S David Nugent gives a short speech at the opening of the art show.**



**MET** director Eric Noora, Edward Tortotici and wife, mega international artist Anita Tortorici

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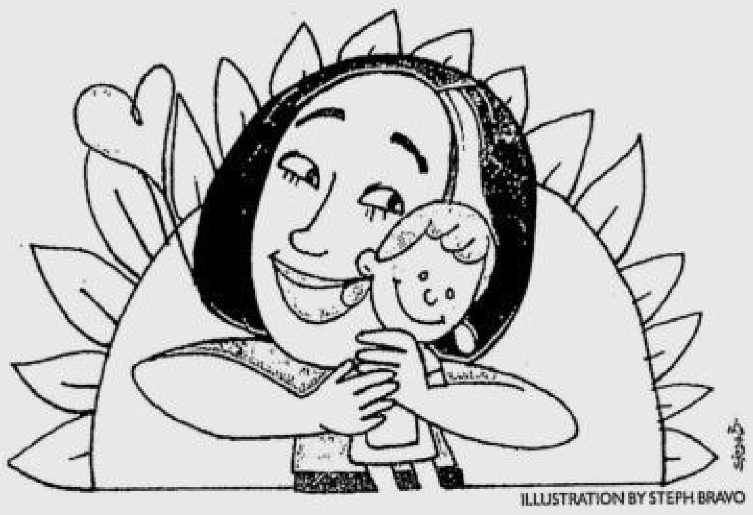

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

## INSIDE OUT
*Cory Quirino*

# Nurture the mother in you

*(Dedicated to my mother, Conchita R. Quirino)*

IT IS SAID THAT A child lives in the midst of your psyche. This child represents innocence, trust and faith in one's self. And this child needs only love in order to live.

### Grow up

You've heard "grow up" said oftentimes in a scolding manner. But, there's good news and bad news here. On the positive side, "to grow up" means to leave all your childish illusions behind. However, if you forget the child in you, you may lose your childlike qualities.

### Balance

In a world so demanding, one can go to extremes. So, instead of striving to be the best, one would strive to be more than the best. But pushing oneself beyond the limits of endurance whether physically, intellectually or emotionally may result in dislocation of a person. How so? Numbed by the trappings of success, a person can be so focused on the goal that s/he can become far removed from the home base.

Driven by people's expectations which are mostly based on personal assets and social acceptability, one can be easily seduced to place more value on popularity and wealth than humility and honesty.

In this fast-paced world the child in you can be neglected. However, in a world of balance, the child is nurtured. These eternal joys that "save your day" are what Dr. Gary Zukav mentions in his book "The Heart of the Soul." All of us have a savior list that includes new love/partner, job, car, house, dress, money, fame, beauty, etc.

Without a savior, you tend to be excited and enthusiastic. But with the presence of one, your life seems ordinary.

Therefore, the message here is when you give more value to your "saviors" rather than your inner feelings, you cannot begin to understand who you truly are.

### Call Mom

As children, we instinctively turned to Mom each time we were in pain or trouble. That's because we learned the meaning of unconditional love from her. No matter what we did wrong or how imperfect we are, we are assured of her love—without judgment. But that is what a mother's love is—total, limitless and unending.

### Save the child

What if we can reacquaint ourselves with the child in us? By so doing, we will reconnect with the mother in us all. This simple thought alone tells us that we can be both parent and child to ourselves. If we save the child, we reinforce the parent in us. The result is a whole person who has found balance.

This truth saves us from the desire to be saved by someone else. Because, in truth, we can save ourselves. How? By loving ourselves better. Therefore, we no longer hold someone else responsible for our happiness or success.

There are many ways to reward and pamper the mother in us.

- Find a quiet moment. Close your eyes. Slow down your breathing.
- Remember your happiest time as a child. Relive the memory and revive the feelings.
- Store this memory in your heart.
- Each time you feel down, go back to that place in your heart where mother and child are together.
- Now, see yourself as an observer to this happy moment.
- Step into the memory and, in place of your mother, embrace yourself as a child.

### Reward Mom

Today, in anticipation of Mother's Day, reward two important people in your life—your mother and the mother in you. Because of her, you are you, but because of you, you are what you have become.

### Gift to moms

Give Mom a healthy treat by taking her to East Café in Rustan's Makati, which features Total Buffet by Chef Him de Baron. Ongoing until May 31, Mom's meal is free when she dines with a group of four. Call 8120233, 6336577.

Happy Mother's Day!

Love and light!

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*How can we prevent HPV infection?*

The only way to prevent Human Papillomavirus (HPV) infection is to avoid direct contact with the virus, which is transmitted by skin-to-skin contact. If warts are visible in the genital area, sexual contact should be avoided until the warts are treated. Using a latex condom during sexual intercourse may provide some protection. Also, there is a newly developed HPV vaccine which can be given to females as young as 9 years old up to 26 years old. Ideally, females should get the vaccine before they are sexually active because they have not yet acquired any of the four HPV types covered by the vaccine. For those females who are sexually active may also benefit from the vaccine but they may get less benefit since they may have already acquired one or more HPV type(s) covered by the vaccine. We do not know yet if the vaccine is effective in males although it is possible that vaccinating males will have health benefits for them by preventing genital warts and rare cancers, such as penile and anal cancer. It is also possible that vaccinating males will have indirect health benefits for females. Studies are now being done to find out if the vaccine works to prevent HPV infection and disease in males. When more information is available, this vaccine may be licensed and recommended for males as well.

*This week's answer to our feature question is courtesy of Dr. Desiree Manlapaz-Gonzales. Dra. Des specializes in OB-Gynecology. She earned her medical degree at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Medical Center, followed by her residency training for a specialization in OB-Gynecology at Victor R. Potenciano Medical Center. Dra. Des is married to Mr. Romel Gonzales and is blessed with a daughter, Denisse. MEDICard members may avail for her consultations at Sta. Lucia Healthcare Center every Monday, Thursday and Friday 3-6pm and at Health Connection Medical Clinic every Wednesday 2-4 pm and Saturday 8-10 am*

Nicky

*MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.*

MEDICard [illegible]

## Your Doctor Knows Best
Priscilla B. Caguioa MD, FPCP, FPSMO

**Question:**
I am a smoker and have been coughing for almost a year now. How would I know if I have lung cancer?

**Doctor Says…**

Cancer results from disruption of the normal growth and development of the body's basic unit of life, the cell. New cells are produced only when the need arises, such us during replacement of dead cells and injuries. This system of checks and balances maintains normal growth. In lung cancer, there is uncontrolled growth and development of cells eventually forming a mass known as tumor.

Lung cancer affects both men and women. It is the leading cause of cancer death in the country and is responsible for most cancer deaths throughout the world. Based on the microscopic appearance of lung cancer, there are two major types: non-small cell lung cancer and small cell lung cancer. Non-small cell lung cancer is more common and presents in three subtypes, namely, squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, and large cell carcinoma. Small cell lung cancer accounts for about 20% of all lung cancer. Your doctor will be best to explain the differences and details of these types of lung cancer.

Smoking is strongly correlated with lung cancer. The more you are exposed to cigarette smoking, the greater the risk of developing lung cancer. Cigarette smoke contains many carcinogens (cancer-causing substances). Secondhand smokers (those who do not smoke but are exposed to smokers) are also at risk of developing lung cancer. People exposed to asbestos, radon, and air pollutants may also develop the disease. Similarly, those with relatives who have lung cancer are at greater risk compared with the general population.

Symptoms of lung cancer are varied. In the early stage, the patient usually has no symptoms at all. As the tumor progresses and becomes more advanced, it may interfere with breathing leading to symptoms like chronic cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, chest pain and coughing out blood (hemoptysis). Other manifestations of the disease include hoarseness, weight loss, loss of appetite, difficulty in swallowing, fever and frequent respiratory infections, such as bronchitis and pneumonia. These conditions may also be present in many other lung diseases, thus it is important to consult a doctor if you are experiencing any of these symptoms to know if your present symptom is actually due to lung cancer or not.

How is lung cancer diagnosed and what are the treatment options available? These will be answered in next week's Your Doctor Knows Best column.

*Dr. Caguioa is a Medical Oncologist/Hematologist. She is an active consultant at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital. She holds clinics at the University of Santo Tomas Hospital and St. Luke's Medical Center. Dr. Caguioa is also an Associate Professor at the University of the Santo Tomas, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery.*

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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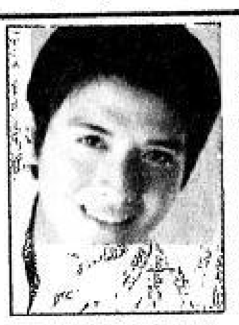
ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI



ALFRED VARGAS

MARIEL RODRIGUEZ

FRANCIS MAGALONA

CHERRY PIE PICACHE

OGIE ALCASID

ZSAZSA PADILLA

# What their moms told these celebs

**DOLLY WOOD**

*Dolly Anne Carvajal*

SINCE SUNDAY IS MOTHERS' Day, I asked some celebrities what advice their moms gave them that they wish they had heeded. In the long run, mothers really know (and "NO") best!

I plead guilty to displeasing my own late mom many times over when love got the better of me. For instance, when I was about to graduate from college at the University of the Philippines, I told her, "Good news! I'm graduating cum laude. But the bad news is, I'm pregnant!"

She never gave up on me, though. So to my mom, whom I miss immensely, thanks for always forgiving me even before I say "Sorry."

Whatever happens in my life I know, because of you, I am worth something. In my heart, I send you flowers everyday.

* * *

ZSA ZSA PADILLA: "My mom always told me to save more money. It takes quite an effort especially now, with this taxation [system]."

FRANCIS MAGALONA: " I regret not taking my mom's advice to finish my studies. Hopefully, I can go back to school someday and take up Photography or Fine Arts."

ALESSANDRA DE ROSSI: "Mama mia keeps telling me to shut up when I have nothing good to say about somebody. But *'di ko talaga mapigilan sarili ko.* I blurt out what I feel. *Basta nasa tama ako, kesehodang may matamaan!*"

OGIE ALCASID: "Had I followed my mom's advice to study before venturing seriously into entertainment, it would have taken me less than seven years to finish college."

CHERRY PIE PICACHE: "There's one man that my mom really wanted me to end up with. He was my escort during my debut. Not that I regret the choices I made, but sometimes when I look back, I can say that mothers know best indeed."

ALFRED VARGAS: "During my senior year in college, I had a hard time balancing my academics, particularly my Accounting subject, and theater/show biz commitments. I totally burned myself out. I should have listened to my mom when she kept reminding me not to take things too seriously."

CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA: "Growing up, Ma encouraged me to take piano lessons but I ignored her 'cause I was into other things. If only I'd followed what she said, I would be not just a singer but also a composer now."

AI AI DE LAS ALAS: "*Sinuway ko ang Mama ko* when I married **Miguel Vera**, [knowing] that he was already married to someone else. *Bulag ako sa pag-ibig noon kaya bingi ako sa mga payo ni Ma. Tama nga siya. Naghiwalay din kami ni* Miguel eventually."

POLO RAVALES: "Ma never fails to remind me that when I pick a girlfriend, *dapat 'yung mabait sa* parents *niya*. I keep that in mind but sometimes love makes me forget."

> 'I don't regret the choices I made, but when I look back I see that, really, mothers know best'

DANICA SOTTO: "Mom told me that laziness would get me nowhere. I was supposed to finish Culinary Arts in two years but it took me four years because I was [often] *puyat* from taping and too lazy to go to school the next day."

MARIEL RODRIGUEZ: "Not to get a tattoo. [But] I did it during my rebellious days."

### Gala night

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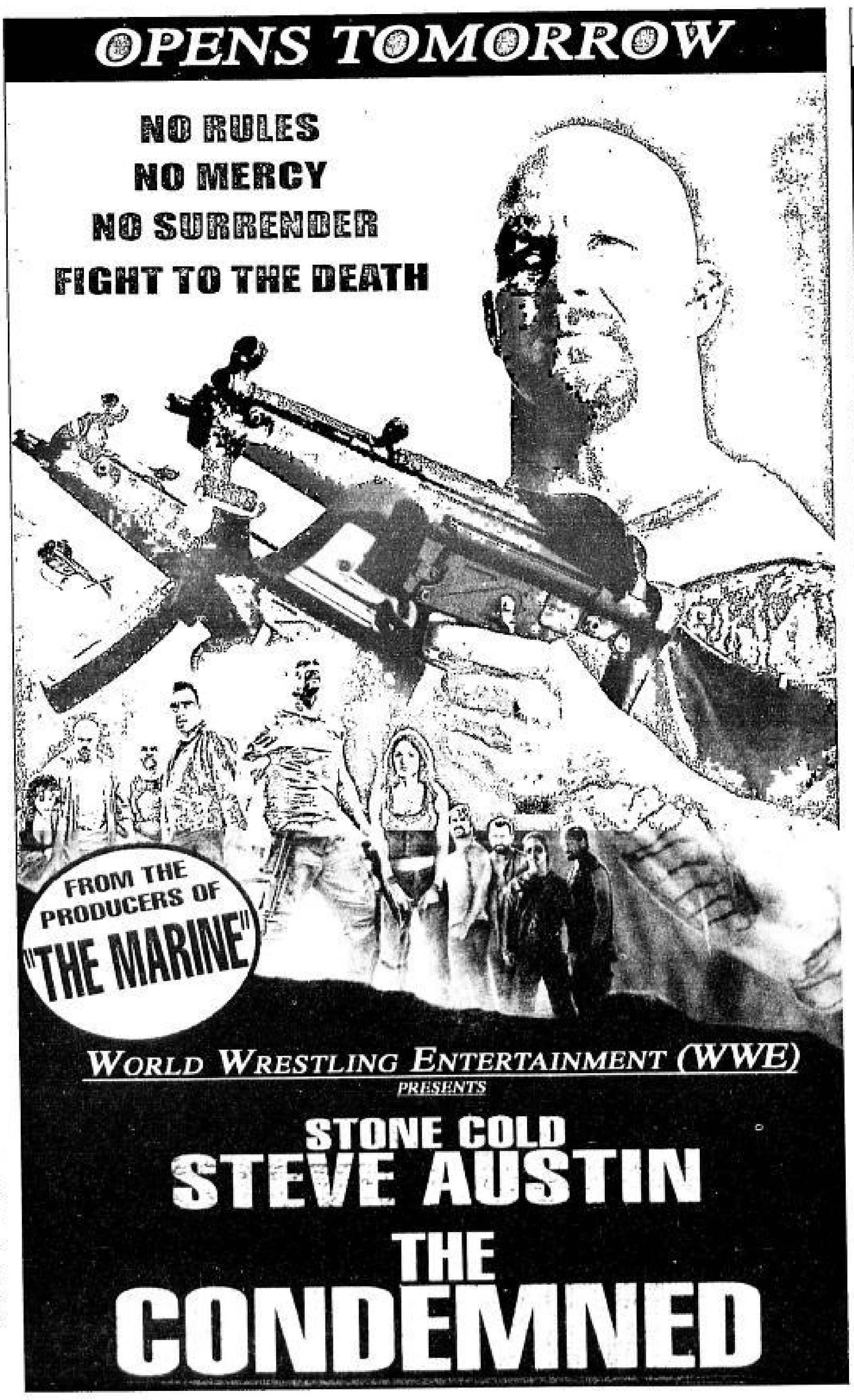

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7 GOLD (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
8 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
9 SPIDER-MAN 3
10 SPIDER-MAN 3

**Blue Wave** MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
2 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
4 (DOLBY) RESERVED

**SUPER CINERAMA**
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 THE SHOOTER

**THE MARKETPLACE**
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4 SATANICA

**Masagana CINEMA 1 2 3 4**
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 THE SHOOTER

**Center Mall Cinema**
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- 4449346
1 SPIDER-MAN-3
2 SPIDER-MAN-3

**Jade Cinema**
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 (DTS) SPIDER-MAN 3
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES 2

**Centre Plaza Cinema**
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7097
TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLE
2 ANG CUTE NG INA MO

**EASTWOOD CINEMAS**
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
2 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
4 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3

**CINEMA 2000**
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 (DTS) SPIDER-MAN 3
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3
4

**Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall**
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 (DOLBY) RESERVED
3 (DTS) RESERVED
4 RESERVED

**Cinema 2000 Cinemagix**
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3

**Cinema 2000 Metrotown**
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN-3
4 (DTS) SPIDER-MAN-3

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN 3

**Cinema 2000 Waltermart**
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3

**Lianas Cinema**
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
2 PLEASE CALL

**Lianas Cinema**
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) SPIDER-MAN-3
2 OBSESSION
3 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
4 (DTS) KARELASYON

**Lianas MovieCity**
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) SPIDER-MAN-3
2 NAKED LIES
3 (DTS) ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
5 SPIDER-MAN-3

**Fiesta World Mall**
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 THE HILLS HAVE EYES
2 SPIDER-MAN-3
3 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4 SPIDER-MAN-3

**Berma Cinema**
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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## Rare cinem

AT FIRST GLANCE, **GUILLERMO del Toro's** "Pan's Labyrinth" comes off as a fairy tale for children: Once upon a time, we're told, the much-loved princess of a fairy kingdom became dissatisfied with her perfect existence, and wanted to experience the ways of the human world. Despite being warned that it was a dangerous place, she ventured into the world of man—and promptly disappeared.

Had she been killed? No one knew. The fairy king, her father, wept bitterly, but never lost hope that, one fine day, his wayward daughter would return to him alive, despite being violated by the evil cruel world.

---

**EASTWOOD CINEMAS**
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

To receive Eastwood City Events, Promos and Cinema schedule just text eastwood and send to 2948 for Globe, Smart & Sun Cellular subscribers

For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | SPIDER-MAN 3 | 1:50, 4:40, 7:50, 10:50 | G |
| 2 | SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20 | G |
| 3 | SPIDER-MAN 3 | 12:40, 3:40, 6:40, 9:40 | G |
| 4 | SPIDER-MAN 3 | 12:00, 2:50, 5:50, 8:50 | G |

**POWER PLANT CINEMA**
ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>12:40,3:40,6:40,9:40 | SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>12:40,3:40,6:40,9:40 | SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>1:10,4:10,7:10,10:10 |
| SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>2:40,5:40,8:40 | FIREHOUSE DOG<br>G<br>2:10,5:10,8:10 | SPIDER-MAN 3<br>G<br>12:10,3:10 |

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

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GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
*a landmark reinvented!*
NOW SHOWING
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CINEMA 1 | SPIDERMAN 3 | 10:30 , 1:20 , 4:10<br>7:00 , 9:50 | GP |
| CINEMA 2 | SPIDERMAN 3 | 11:10 , 2:00 , 4:50<br>7:40 , 10:30 | GP |

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
*...a dinotertainment for all!*
NOW SHOWING

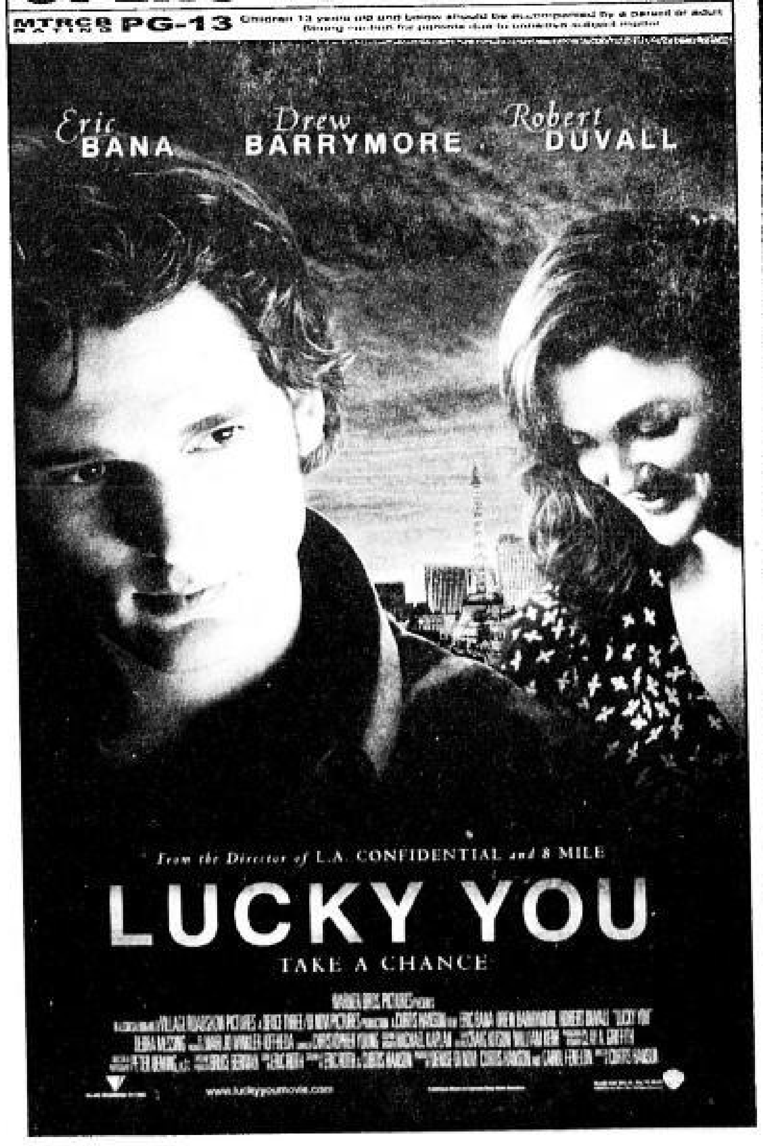
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CINEMA 3 | SPIDERMAN 3 | 10:20 , 1:05 , 3:55<br>6:45 , 9:35 | GP |
| CINEMA 4 | SPIDERMAN 3 | 11:35 , 2:25 , 5:15<br>8:05 , 10:50 | GP |
| CINEMA 5 | SPIDERMAN 3 | 10:50 , 1:45 , 4:35<br>7:25 , 10:15 | GP |

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| MUSIC MUSEUM | May 11 & 12, 2007 | Rock the Vote " The Repeat " | 8:00 PM |
| | May 18, 2007 | CHRISTIAN BAUTISTA | 8:00 PM |
| | May 19 & 26, 2007 | OGIE ALCASID & SITTI | 8:00 PM |
| TEATRINO<br>PROMENADE GREENHILLS | EVERY MONDAY<br>JUNE 15, 2007 | DANCE NIGHT<br>Champion of the World (Jed Madela) | 7:00 PM<br>8:30 PM |

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

**OPENS TOMORROW!**
MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children 13 years old and below should be accompanied by a parent or adult



# atic alchemy in 'Pan's Labyrinth'

**VIEWFINDER**

*Nestor U. Torre*

## Human form

The "dark" fairy tale takes human form when it focuses on Spain in 1944, as Franco's troops are fighting insurgents in the hills. An officer, Capt. Vidal, calls for his pregnant wife and her daughter by her first husband to join him at his remote outpost.

The lovely girl, Ofelia (**Ivana Baquero**), is especially attractive to us, because we surmise that she is the missing princess trapped in human form.

"Trapped" turns out to be the operative word in this human drama, because Ofelia is growing up in a particularly violent and ugly time. Most violent of all is her stepfather, who thinks nothing of killing innocent people just because he suspects them of coddling the enemy.

Living in her personal hell, Ofelia is in dire danger of losing her precious innocence. To make sure that doesn't happen, a Faun appears to lead her back to her father's kingdom—but only after she successfully performs a number of very dangerous tasks. In many instances, it's her cruel stepfather who stands in the way of her freedom.

> The visuals are marvelous to behold, but they are productively balanced by its story of cruelty and death

## Heavy burden

Even as she longs to escape, however, she can't leave her incapacitated mother behind—not to mention her unborn half-brother, whom she must liberate from his vicious father at all cost.

What a heavy burden to place on such a young girl's shoulders! But that's precisely what makes "Pan's Labyrinth" an original film: It fuses the innocent with the sordid, love and hate, faith and faithlessness, so perceptively that we are both stunned and moved by its rare cinematic alchemy.

The film's visuals are marvelous to behold, but they are productively balanced by its story of cruelty and death. Ultimately, one element informs and expands on the other, so "Pan's Labyrinth" turns out to be—a fairy tale for adults!

## Top-notch acting

The performances are top-notch, with Baquero, **Sergi Lopez** (Capt. Vidal) and **Maribel Verdu** (the courageous housekeeper) pacing the rest of the gifted cast.

We're grateful to the filmmaker not only for the visual beauty of his film, but also for the richness and depth of his vision of life and the eternal struggle between good and evil.

As he sees it, good can triumph only if it heroically *defends* its superiority to evil—if it can't, or won't, all is lost.

## Feedback

From Paul R. Mortel of Marikina City: "Thank you for hitting TV stations that have already forgotten their responsibilities to their poor viewers. I myself have written to the DOTC and DTI about the overloading of commercials, but no action so far. The word *'pagkatapos'* has become the order of the day, as TV stations no longer mention the telecast time of certain programs, as they used to do in the past. The culprit: The overloading of commercials with no regard if viewers are *'naiinis na!'*

## Breakout directors

Spaniard **Juan Carlos Fresnadillo** and Russian **Timur Bekmambetor** make a strong impression with their direction of "28 Weeks Later" and "Day Watch," respectively. The first film is about how the government might respond to the daunting task of controlling a viral outbreak. And "Day Watch" shows what happens when the balance maintained between the forces of light and darkness is violently upended.

## Movies on TV

On HBO, today at 8:15 a.m., "Carlito's Way: Rise to Power." Tomorrow at 3:30 p.m., "The Education of Little Tree."

On Cinemax, today at 4:45 p.m., "Dog Day Afternoon." Tomorrow at 9 p.m., "Cruel Intentions."

# What their moms told these celebs

From page D1

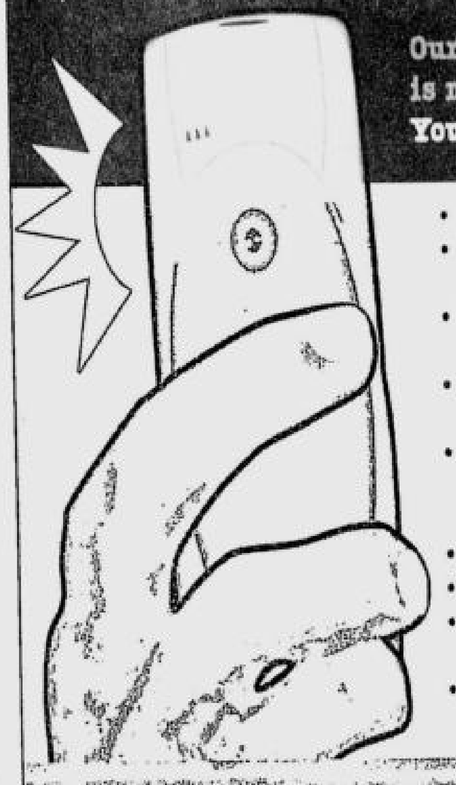
Industry (PCCI)'s gala night at the Manila Hotel was a rousing success. Everyone was moved by performance of tenor **Eric Cruz**, PCCI VP, who won "Male Star of the Night."

He was joined onstage by the country's top tenor **Nolyn Cabahug**. The opening dance number conceptualized by multi-awarded director **Shirley Halili Cruz** wowed the crowd. Kudos to the awesome husband-and-wife team of of Shirley and Eric for your work of art/heart!

*E-mail wateringholeshangri-la@yahoo.com.*

SHANG CINEPLEX
① SPIDER-MAN 3 MTRCB. GP 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
② SPIDER-MAN 3 MTRCB. GP 2:00, 5:00, 8:00,
③ SPIDER-MAN 3 MTRCB. GP 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 9:00
④ SPIDER-MAN 3 MTRCB. GP 2:30, 5:30, 8:30
PREMIERE THEATRE SPIDER-MAN 3 (GP) 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
"SHREK 3" TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE!
Showing on May 16.
Call 633-2227 for more details
6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc. 171/ 170 or 633-2227
for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza

METRO
Citizen's Call
Our City of Affections and Disaffections is made up of stories.
Your stories. Tell us all about it.



- Did a signage make your day?
- Garbage dumped on your street unmake your day?
- Street diggings forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up in arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Awed by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

JUST TEXT SMS: ccall name/age/location <message>
MMS: <insert photo> ccall name/age/location <caption/message>
09188985666
PS: Please don't send tips on criminal activities and scams. Call the police.
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EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE
SPIDERMAN 3
11:05 / 12:00 / 1:10 / 2:00 / 2:35 / 2:55 / 3:30 / 4:05
4:20 / 4:40 / 4:55 / 5:30 / 5:50 / 6:25 / 7:00 / 7:15 / 7:35
7:50 / 8:25 / 8:45 / 9:20 / 9:55 / 10:10 / 10:30
PLATINUM CINEMA
SPIDERMAN 3
12:15 / 3:10 / 6:05 / 9:00
Ali MALL 5
1 SPIDERMAN 3 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
2 SPIDERMAN 3 1:05 / 3:35 / 6:05 / 8:35
3 SPIDERMAN 3 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
4 ANG CUTE NG INA MO 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
5 SHOOTER 12:35 / 3:10 / 5:45 / 8:20
DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS
For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph
ARANETA COLISEUM
www.aranetacoliseum.com
PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE
MAY 9, Wednesday
4:35 - Air 21 vs. Coca-Cola 7:20 - Sta Lucia vs. Red Bull
PBA FIESTA CONFERENCE
MAY 13, 2007 Sunday
4:05 - Coca-Cola vs. Alaska 6:20 - Purefoods vs. Ginebra

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS MOVIE GUIDE
MOVIEWORLD
CINEMA ACCESS
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FOR ALL BRANCHES
www.robinsonsmovieworld.com
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GALLERIA
1 SPIDER-MAN 3 • THX 1:15 4:05 6:55 9:45
2 SPIDER-MAN 3 12:45 3:35 6:25 9:15
3 SPIDER-MAN 3 10:55 1:45 4:35 7:25 10:15
4 SPIDER-MAN 3 12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00
5 SPIDER-MAN 3 10:40 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
6 SPIDER-MAN 3 1:00 3:50 6:40 9:30
7 PAN'S LABYRINTH 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
8 indieSine: NUMBALIKDIWA 1:00 3:30 4:50 6:40 8:30
9 PERFECT STRANGER 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50F
10 SPIDER-MAN 3 12:00 2:50 5:40 8:30

SHOWING NOW!!!! !
Bobby Bonifacio Jr.'s
NUMBALIKDIWA

Starring:
MARICEL SORIANO & ALBERT MARTINEZ!
A fresh departure from your usual horror flicks! Feel shivers down your spine, detail after gory detail!
BE PREPRARED TO BE SCARED OUT OF YOUR SEATS!
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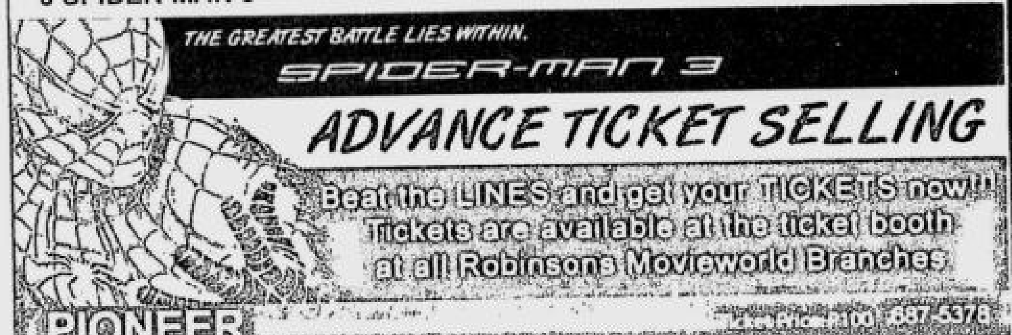
ONLY AT INDIESINE, Robinsons Galleria!

ERMITA 538-7809 to 12
1 SPIDER-MAN 3 10:20 1:10 4:10 7:05 10:00
2 ANG CUTE ng INA MO 12:35 2:50 5:05
SHOOTER 7:30 10:00
3 SPIDER-MAN 3 12:15 3:10 6:05 9:00
4 SPIDER-MAN3 11:15 2:10 5.05 8:00
5 SPIDER-MAN 3 10:20 1:15 4:10 7:05 10:00
6 SPIDER-MAN 3 12:35 3:30 6:25 9:20
7 SPIDER-MAN 3 11:55 2:50 5:45 8:40

METRO EAST Ticket Price P100 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 SPIDER-MAN 3 12:30 3:10 5:50 8:30
2 SPIDER-MAN 3 1:30 4:10 6:50 9:30
3 SPIDER-MAN 3 10:30 1:30 4:10 6:50
4 SPIDER-MAN 3 11:30 2:10 4:50 7:30
5 SPIDER-MAN 3 12:00 2:40 5:20 8:00
6 SPIDER-MAN 3 3:40 6:20 9:00
7 SPIDER-MAN 3 1:00 3:40 6:20
8 ANG CUTE ng INA MO 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3



THE GREATEST BATTLE LIES WITHIN.
SPIDER-MAN 3
ADVANCE TICKET SELLING
Beat the LINES and get your TICKETS now!!!
Tickets are available at the ticket booth at all Robinsons Movieworld Branches

PIONEER Ticket Price P100 687-5378
1 SPIDER-MAN 3 12:50 3:30 8:50
2 SPIDER-MAN 3 12:10 2:50 5:30 8:10
3 SPIDER-MAN 3 2:10 5:00 7:40
4 SPIDER-MAN 3 11:00 1:40 4:30 7:10

STA. ROSA Ticket Price P80 (049) 837-0907
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 THE REAPING
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3

LIPA Ticket Price P90 (043) 757-3684 (043) 312-5870
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3

DASMARINAS Ticket Price P80 (046) 416-4332
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 ANG CUTE NG INA MO
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3

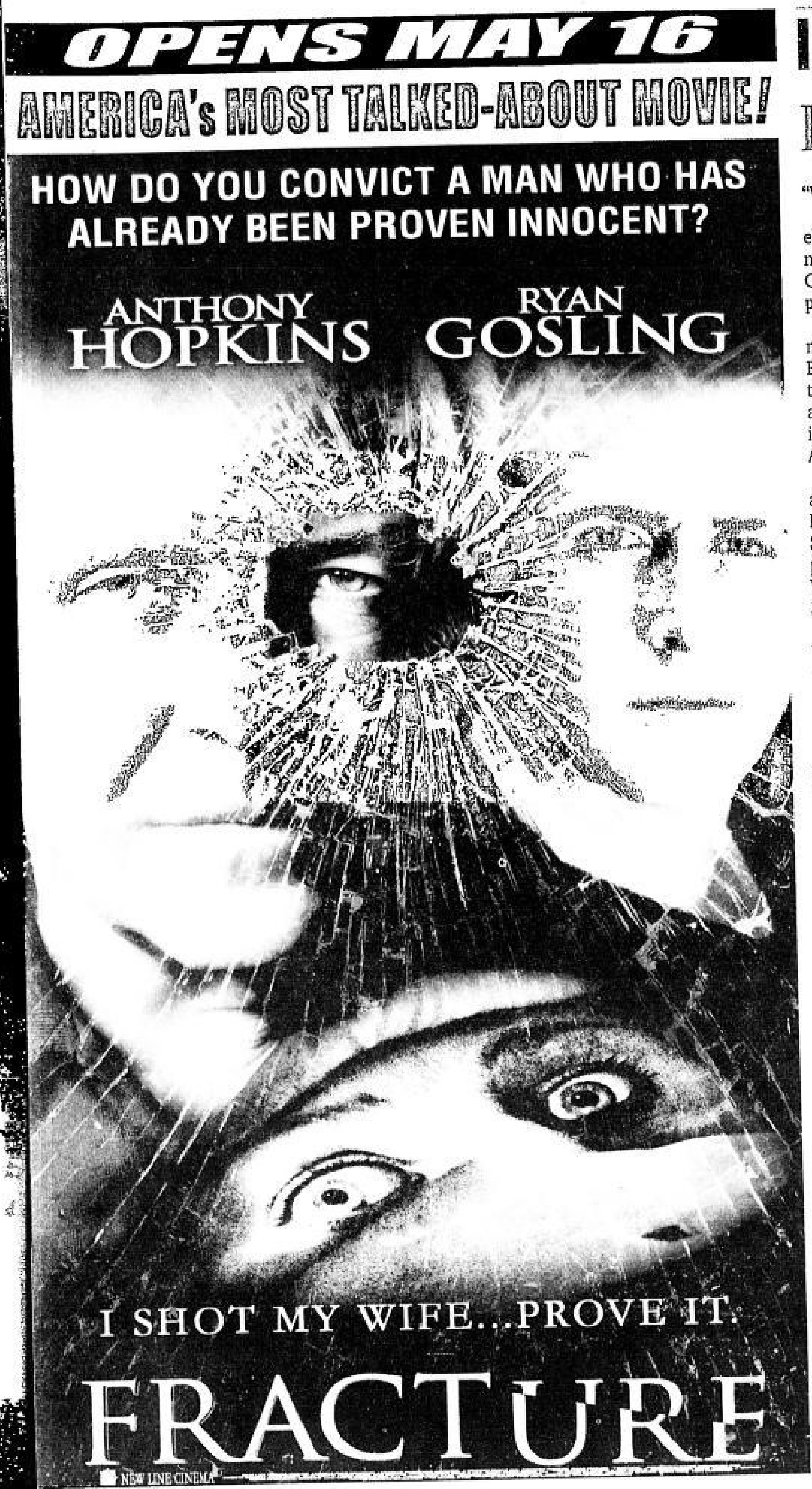
ANGELES Ticket Price P90 (045) 892-2348
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3

IMUS Ticket Price P100 (046) 875-3639 (046) 471-8186
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SHOOTER
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 ANG CUTE ng INA MO

STARMILLS Ticket Price P80 (045) 875-1921
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 SPIDER-MAN 3
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

BACOLOD Ticket Price P70 (034) 441-0450
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 RESERVE
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 PATHFINDER
6 SPIDER-MAN 3

ILOILO Ticket Price P70.50 (033) 336-8070
1 SPIDER-MAN 3
2 SPIDER-MAN 3
3 SPIDER-MAN 3
4 SPIDER-MAN 3
5 ANG CUTE ng INA MO
6 PATHFINDER


OPENS MAY 16
AMERICA's MOST TALKED-ABOUT MOVIE!
HOW DO YOU CONVICT A MAN WHO HAS ALREADY BEEN PROVEN INNOCENT?
ANTHONY HOPKINS
RYAN GOSLING
I SHOT MY WIFE...PROVE IT.
FRACTURE
NEW LINE CINEMA

# Kids' Choice Awards

"WHO DO YOU WANNA BE?"

Voting is ongoing for the Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards. Winners will be named at the Orange Carpet walk, Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, on May 26.

This year's Pinoy Wannabe Award nominees are singer Christian Bautista, actor John Lloyd Cruz, actress Angel Locsin, singer and "Super Inggo" star Makisig Morales and Tony Awardee Lea Salonga.

Voting forms are available at Toy Kingdom in SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM Fairview, SM Bacoor, SM Pampanga, SM Makati, The Podium, TK VMall, Mall of Asia, SM Marilao and SM North Edsa.

Or log on to the Nickelodeon Asia Web site (www.nicksplat.com/kca) to vote. Or, text Nick <space> KCA <space> (name of nominee) and send to 2966.

## 'Meet The Robinsons'

Opening soon in local theaters is Walt Disney Feature Animation's "Meet The Robinsons," a film about boy-genius Lewis.

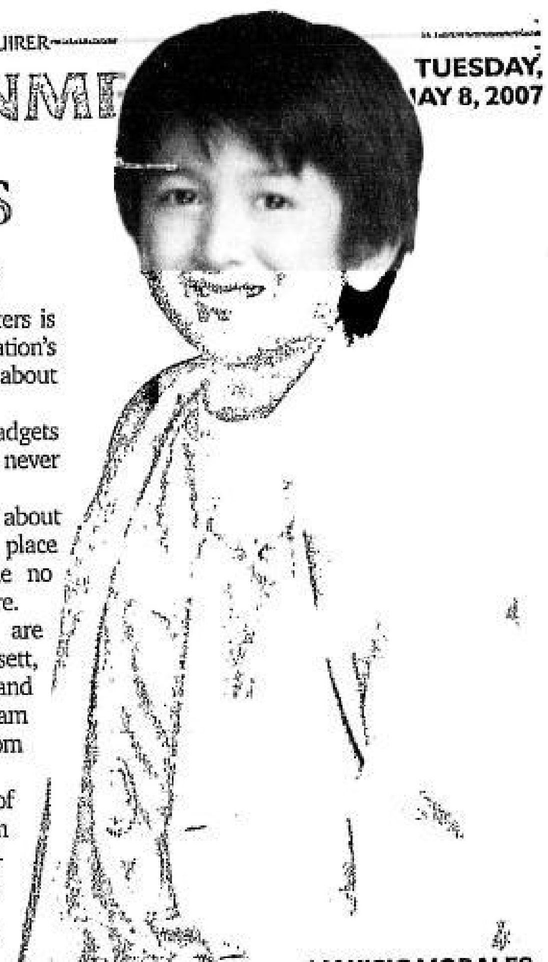
The boy loves games and gadgets and hopes to find the family he never knew.

**KID FIT**

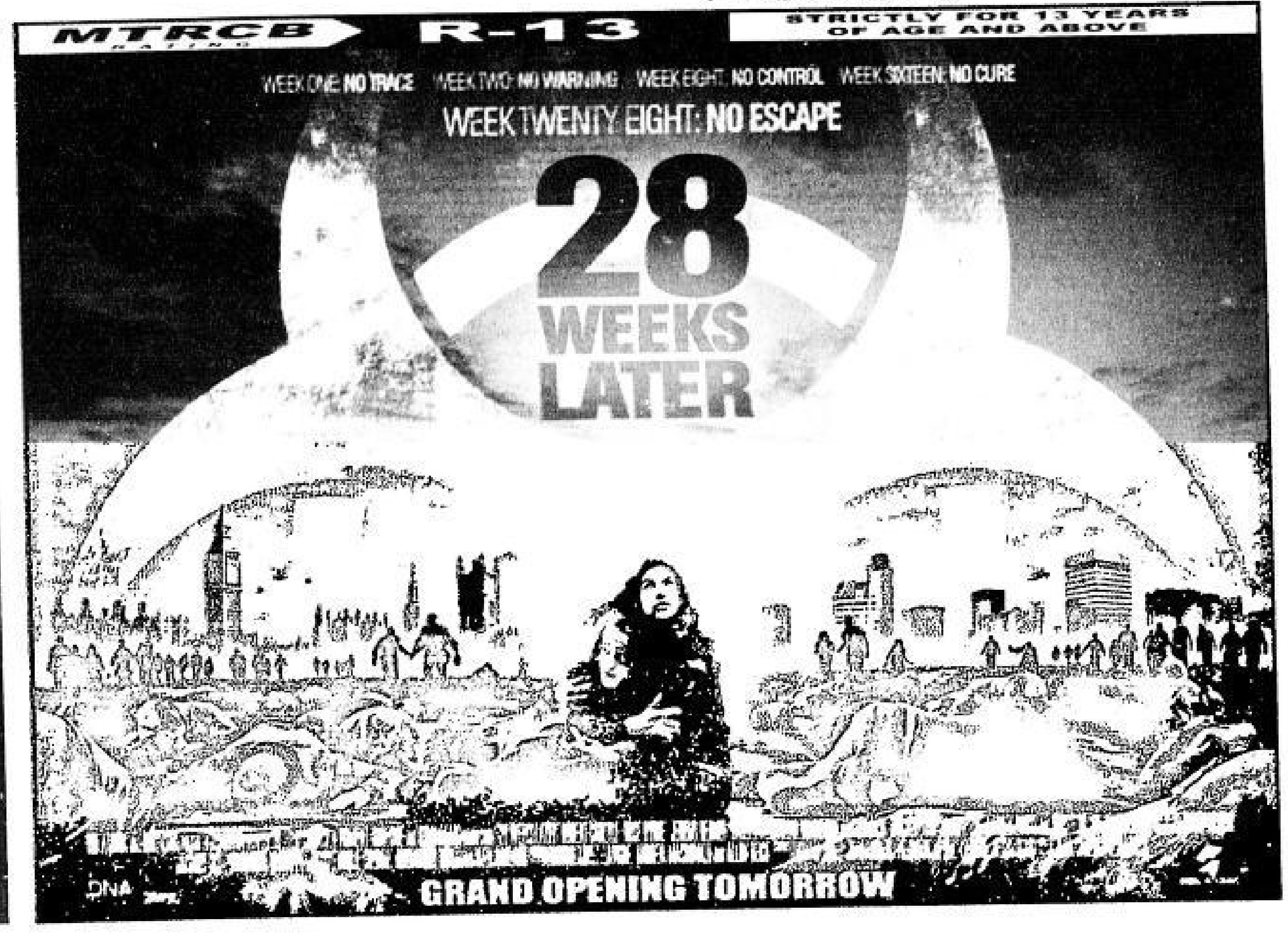
Lewis' journey is about to take him to a place where the impossible no longer exists—the future.

The characters are voiced by Angela Bassett, Tom Selleck, Harland Williams, Laurie Metcalf, Adam West, Ethan Sandler and Tom Kenny.

The directorial debut of Stephen Anderson, the film was written by Filipino-American Joe Mateo, together with Jon Bernstein, Michelle Spitz, Don Hall, Nathan Greno, Aurian Redson and Anderson.



MAKISIG MORALES


MTRCB RATING R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE
WEEK ONE: NO TRACE WEEK TWO: NO WARNING WEEK EIGHT: NO CONTROL WEEK SIXTEEN: NO CURE
WEEK TWENTY EIGHT: NO ESCAPE
28 WEEKS LATER
GRAND OPENING TOMORROW

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

## AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification please call 725 7777

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G1 GLORIETTA 1 | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 4 ANG CUTE NG INA MO | | |
| G4 GLORIETTA 4 | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 3 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 PERFECT STRANGERS | 5 WILD HOGS | 6 SPIDER-MAN 3 |
| | 7 SPIDER-MAN 3 | | | | | |
| GB1 GREENBELT 1 | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | | | | |
| GB3 GREENBELT 3 | 1 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | |
| ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER | 1 THX SPIDER-MAN 3 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 4 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 5 SPIDER-MAN 3 | |
| ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 3 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 4 SHOOTER | | |
| M2 MARKET! MARKET! | 1 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 2 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 3 ANG CUTE NG INA MO | 4 SPIDER-MAN 3 | 5 SPIDER-MAN 3 | |

## At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

| GLORIETTA | ALABANG TOWN CENTER |
|---|---|
| Toby's Sports Event<br>April 27 to 29, 2007 | Huggies Interactive<br>May 5 to 6, 2007 |
| AYALA CENTER CEBU | MARKET! MARKET! |
| Bazaar at level 1 (near Activity Center)<br>April 1 to 30, 2007 | The Maestro Series by Ryan Cayabyab<br>April 30, 2007 |

GREENBELT: Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peek presents A Collection of Myth feat. Randy Ortiz, Ivarluski Asescon, Jojie Loren & Joey Samson
April 25 to May 6, 2007

Onstage: Repertory Philippines presents GLORIOUS at REP's Globe Theater - April 13 to 29, 2007
For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710

Ayala MUSEUM: CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Streams from the Mainland (six shows)
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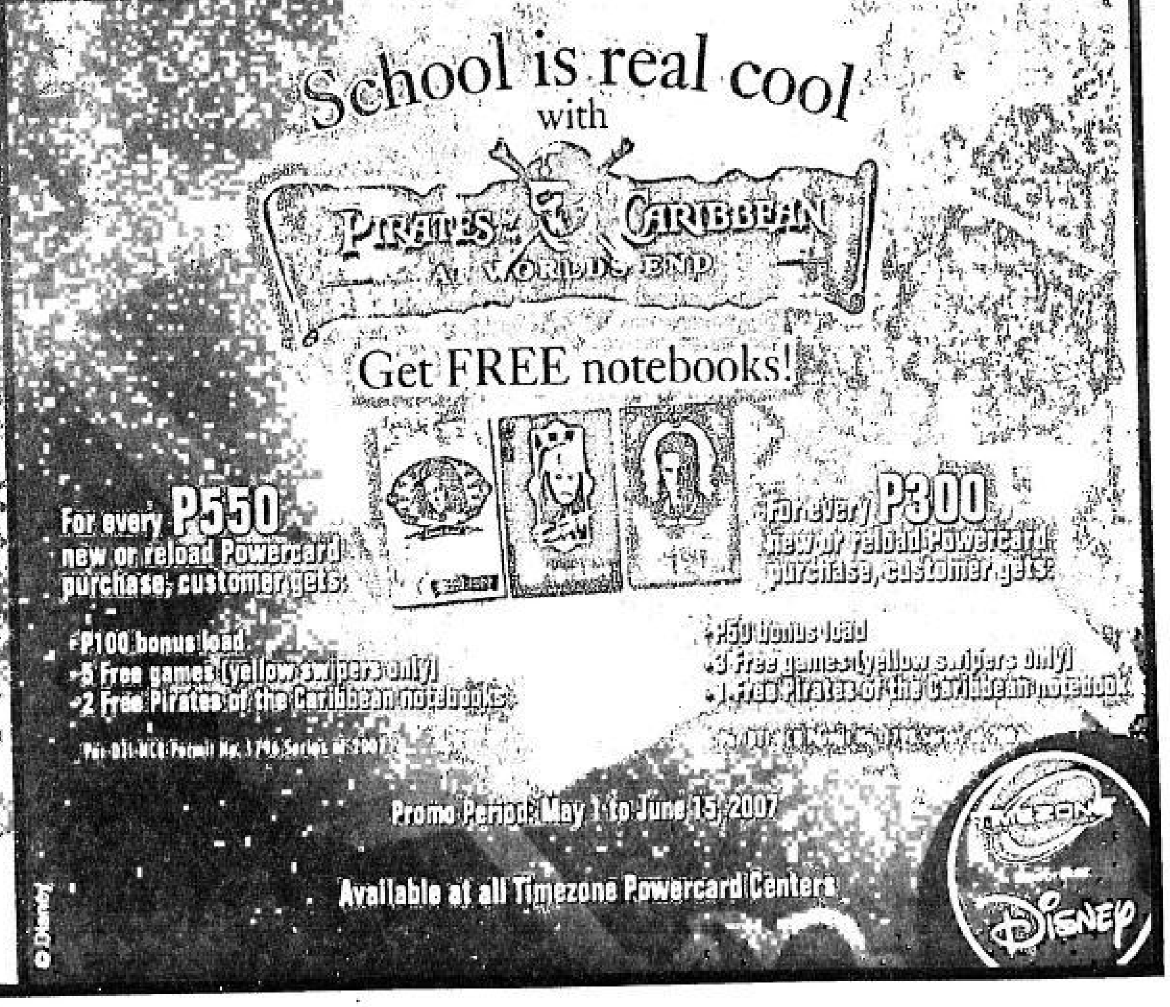
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